



SCHOOLS FACE ROAD SAFETY BILL

Report by Richard Guttridge

LOLLIPOP wardens will disappear from outside school gates across the Dudley borough – unless schools pick up the bill to pay for them.

Cash-strapped Dudley Council is set to axe all of its school crossing patrols as part of drastic cost-cutting measures but will give schools the option to step in to pay for road safety wardens.

Bosses have admitted that many schools in other parts of the country have not been able to meet similar costs, meaning that the number of lollipop men and women outside schools in the borough is likely to plummet.

Annual costs to schools to keep their wardens would vary, from just over £1,000 to as much as £20,000 for sites which use more than one.

All schools run by the local authority are affected. The changes, which would come into force from next year, would save the council around £260,000 per year.

The Labour-controlled authority needs to save £20 million over the next three years following severe budget cuts imposed by the Government.

School crossing wardens are an area where the council can save money as the authority is not legally obliged to provide them.

Worried

Dudley Council previously revealed plans to charge schools for their wardens but has now said crossings will go unmanned if schools cannot afford, or choose not, to keep them.

The plans are likely to be met by a backlash from worried parents. In recent years, campaigns have been launched by parents at schools where retiring wardens have not been replaced. Meanwhile, many school budgets are already stretched.

New 20mph zones are set to be rolled out at 15 schools in the borough, which bosses hope will lessen the need for crossing wardens.

Councillor Patrick Harley, leader of the council's opposition Conservative Group, accused the council of 'shirking its responsibility' and 'morally blackmailing' schools.

He said: "We know the authority has got to make savings but they shouldn't be making frontline cuts that have a direct impact on people who use them, in this case, parents and children. It's scandalous."

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "The service is not a statutory requirement but the council has previously been in a position to fund this service to schools across the borough."

"While we recognise its importance, we do need to look at alternative options to fund the service due to the unprecedented times we face as a result of significantly reduced funding from central Government."

GAZZA IS FINED £1,000 FOR RACIST COMMENT



Fined £1,000 – Paul Gascoigne arrives at Dudley Magistrates Court to plead guilty to racially-aggravated harassment of a security guard

FORMER England footballer Paul Gascoigne was fined £1,000 at Dudley Magistrates Court after admitting racially abusing a black security guard at Wolverhampton Civic Hall.

He was also ordered to pay £1,000 compensation to Errol Rowe over the comment made in front of hundreds of people during his 'An Evening with Gazza' show last year. The bodyguard was standing in the shadows at the side of the stage when Gascoigne asked him "can you smile so I can see you?" during the show. But he denied an allegation that he had made a comment in the dressing room that

he "didn't know my security had a sun tan". Mr Rowe said he had been "humiliated" and reduced to tears by the abuse from his football hero.

District Judge Graham Wilkinson told the former Newcastle, Spurs and Glasgow Rangers player that his words were "insidious racism that needed to be challenged" and that he had targeted Mr Rowe because of his colour in order to "get a laugh."

"Mr Rowe was clearly humiliated on stage because of no other reason than the colour of his skin. This is a very serious offence."

Lawyer Gavin Harris told the court: "Mr Gascoigne is sorry for the offence he caused Mr Rowe that evening."

Mr Harris added: "The words used were not said out of malice but were from a bygone age."

Dressed in a pinstripe suit, Gazza, 49, who lives in Poole, Dorset, signed autographs and posed for pictures with fans before heading into court to plead guilty to racially-aggravated harassment. He was ordered to pay £600 in court costs before being driven away in a Porsche.

RETAIL

Aldi store to open on pub site next month

A NEW supermarket is set to open in Dudley at the end of October.

The Aldi supermarket will open its doors on the site of the demolished King Arthur pub, next to Birmingham New Road.

In recent weeks work has progressed quickly, with the structure and the 94-space car park taking shape, alongside promotional signs outside the premises.

Bosses say that they received a large amount of support from the local community for its proposal with 94 per cent of the feedback received from local people supporting the plans.

POLICE

Man arrested over alleged hit-and-run

A MAN has been arrested over a suspected hit-and-run that left two women and two young children injured.

The 27-year-old was arrested in Stourbridge in the early hours of Monday on suspicion of assault.

Two three-year-old children and two adults were injured when they were hit close to Hob Green Primary School in Hob Green Road, Wolliscote.

The youngsters – a boy and a girl – and the two women were not seriously hurt in last Monday morning's incident.

DEVELOPMENT

Community centre building work starts

WORK on a long-awaited £700,000 community centre in Dudley has begun.

The North Priory Community Centre, near Donkey Pool playing fields, on Priory Road, has been eight years in the planning. Ground preparations took place last November and construction began this week.

Councillor Ken Finch said: "We are right on target to have it completed by next May. Everyone is delighted that work has now properly got underway."

The new centre will include a meeting hall, kitchen, cafe, changing rooms, shower facilities and multi-use games area.

INSIDE

RESTORED TO ORIGINAL GLORY



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Concern over constituency shake-up

MP James Morris has criticised Boundary Commission plans to abolish the Halesowen and Rowley Regis seat as part of a huge carve-up of Parliamentary constituencies.

Mr Morris, who has held the seat for the Tories since 2010, says he is considering appealing the proposal, which would leave Halesowen North, Halesowen and South Belle Vale become part of a new Selly Oak and Halesowen constituency. He said: "I am disappointed that the commission has split parts of Halesowen and Rowley Regis in its latest review."

"There will now be a period of consultation and over the next few days I will be talking to commu-

nity groups and local residents about these proposals and putting together a local response."

The plans would also see Blackheath, Cradley Heath, Rowley and Old Hill shift into the Warley constituency, while Hayley Green and Cradley South would be part of the Stourbridge constituency.

The West Midlands is one of the most radically affected regions in the Boundary Commission's review of Parliamentary constituencies.

The area is set to lose six seats under a proposed move which will reduce the total number of MPs in Britain from 650 to 600.

Two seats in the Black Country will disappear,

while some wards will come under Birmingham constituencies. They include Sandwell's Abbey ward, which will be incorporated into Birmingham Edgbaston, Soho and Victoria, which becomes part of Ladywood, and Walsall's Pheassey Park Farm, which becomes part of Birmingham Erdington.

Brierley Hill will be put in to Stourbridge, leaving the new Dudley West ward without a civic centre. Walsall North is set to be abolished and the two West Bromwich seats carved up as part of a new West Bromwich constituency.

The changes will pit MPs for the same party against each other and could have a big impact on the outcome of the 2020 General Election.

Rat droppings and mould – restaurant gets £7k fine

THE owners of an Indian restaurant have been handed a court bill of more than £7,000 after an inspection uncovered mouldy walls and rat droppings under a sink.

Dudley Council took action after an inspection in August 2015 at Pedro's Indian Cuisine in Market Street, King'swinford.

A dead rat was found in the side alleyway, while droppings were discovered among filthy conditions in the kitchen, where the floor and walls were dirty and mouldy. Food storage containers were also dirty and rotting coriander and cauliflower was found in a fridge.

Staff had been given no food hygiene training and an adequate food safety management system was not in place.

Pedro's Fine Eatery pleaded guilty to eight offences under food hygiene and safety regulations at Dudley Magistrates Court. They were fined £5,000 and ordered to pay costs of £2,216 and £120 victim surcharge.

In a separate case, the New Chicken Hut in Brierley Hill was dealt with after inspectors found dirty floors, walls, basins and fridges at the High Street takeaway. Equipment including a frying basket and chopping boards was damaged. Staff there had not been trained and there was no adequate food safety management system.

Boss Naeem Khan pleaded guilty to seven offences under food hygiene and safety regulations at Dudley Magistrates Court. He was fined £300, ordered to pay £1,750 costs and a surcharge of £20.

Calls grow for action on high stakes betting

CALLS have been made for stricter regulations on the use of betting machines after it emerged that the region's punters had gambled away more than £45 million over the last year.

Figures from the Campaign for Fairer Gambling (CFG) show more than £226 million was gambled in the region's betting shop machines in 2015, with losses amounting to more than £123,000 a day.

Dudley South MP Mike Wood said: "The figures regarding how much cash is put into these machines are frightening."

"This sort of high stakes gambling has a huge impact on a number of social issues and can obviously lead to debt."

"We need a review as quickly as possible to make sure stricter regulations are brought in to restrict the damage that people can cause by using these machines."

Tory MP Mr Wood also called for devolution plans for the West Midlands to include powers for communities to determine whether new bookmakers are allowed to open.

"This is the sort of decision that could be passed down to a local level," added Mr Wood.

Stakes

The CFG has called for a reduction in stakes on Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOTBs) which allow punters to bet up to £100 every 20 seconds.

Wolverhampton council leader Roger Lawrence said the authority was actively seeking ways to increase controls on the use of FOTBs. "It is clear that people who use these machines can lose a lot of money in a very short space of time," he said.

Councillor Steve Eling, leader of Sandwell Council, said that in the past the authority had its 'hands tied' when it came to controlling the number of betting shops in Sandwell. He added: "There simply must be more regulation."

Peter Craske, from the Association of British Bookmakers, said that the vast majority of customers bet responsibly.

"We understand there are a minority of people that could be considered to have a problem, but we have brought in a number of measures to address that," he added.

Fund for player's cancer treatment



Latham Grant, aged 21, with girlfriend Suzanna Priest and parents Chris Grant and Tracy Hughes-Grant

MORE than £7,500 has been raised towards specialist treatment for a Stafford Rangers footballer who has a rare type of cancer.

Latham Grant, who lives in Sedgley, was diagnosed with the neck and head disease, nasopharyngeal cancer, on June 22.

Now the 21-year-old is in a race against time as he looks to raise £40,000 for homoeopathic treatment in Mexico.

The semi-professional footballer could have gone down the route of

chemotherapy and radiotherapy to fight the disease, which affects one in 100,000 with cancer, but in his case the chances of survival can be as low as two per cent.

So he is aiming to go down the alternative route of undergoing oxygen therapy and sticking to an alkaline diet.

"I've had to change my life a lot and start eating better," he said.

"Not so much adding the healthy foods but cutting out the unhealthy and artificial foods."

"A lot of my family and people close to home have suffered from cancer before and not made it through. I believe that was a lot down to the treatments they were receiving."

Latham is already following a strict diet routine to cleanse the body and give it the strongest fighting chance of success.

To help him get the treatment he needs, go to Latham Grant's cancer treatment fund at www.youcaring.com/latham-grant-622264

Man is arrested by armed police

ARMED police were called to a Dudley town centre street amid reports of a man brandishing a gun.

Police were called to North Street just after 11.25am last Wednesday (September 15) after reports of a man with an alleged firearm.

West Midlands Police spokesman Kate Baker said: "Armed officers cordoned off the road and shortly after arrested a 28-year-old man on suspicion of possession of a firearm. No one was injured in the incident."

An employee from Edward Gray Of Dudley Ltd, in North Street, said: "It was about noon when there was a load of police at the bottom end of the road. The road was cordoned off but it cleared shortly after. A few of our workers went outside to see what was going on."

Stalls needed for Beacon festive fair

THE Beacon Centre for the Blind in Sedgley is looking for stallholders for its Christmas craft fair.

The event is being held in the centre in Wolverhampton Road East on November 24 from 6pm. To book a stall, visit www.beaconvision.org website.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Defibrillator to be put in church

A CHURCH in Dudley is having a life-saving defibrillator machine installed.

Dudley Community Church in Salop Street was donated the device by West Midlands Ambulance Service.

It is used to help restart the heart of someone in cardiac arrest and is now on hand at the church to help anyone in the community when an emergency happens.

Andy Jeaynes, the trust's community response manager, also provided first aid and defibrillator training to staff at the church and counselling centre.

Parliament pops up in town centre

YOUNG people are being invited to have their say at a 'Pop up Parliament' event coming to Dudley town centre on Saturday.

The event in Market Place will be hosted by the Dudley Youth Council as part of a national youth consultation called 'Make your Mark', organised by the UK Youth Parliament to find out what young people want their representatives to focus on.

The 'Pop up Parliament' runs from 10am to 4pm. Anyone aged 11 to 18 can take part. For further details contact Darren Foley (01384) 815174.

Green light for a new car park

WORK on a new car park in Dudley town centre is due to be completed in time for Christmas shopping.

It comes as archaeological investigations were completed last week on land earmarked for the 90 space car park in Tower Street.

Walls and floors of cellars from that date from the Georgian period were uncovered. However, nothing of significance has been identified as part of the dig, so construction can continue.

Bosses in 'reluctant' decision to close store

THE Co-op on Stourbridge High Street is set to close with 19 jobs put at risk. The shop is expected to shut down on October 1.

A Co-op spokesman said: "The decision to close any store is taken with the greatest reluctance, and forms part of our ongoing food store review."

"Colleagues have been informed and every effort will be made to find alternative employment for them. We would like to thank our customers for their valued custom and support."

Slasher tales in library

THE Friends of Sedgley Library will be finding out about the Tipton Slasher this morning (Thursday). Chris Smith is giving a talk at 10.30am on bare-knuckle fighter William Perry, who was twice champion of England. The talk is at the library in Ladies Walk at 10.30am, £2 admission.

Flats plan at former audio visual business

THE former base of an independent electrical retailer in Dudley could be turned into seven apartments, under new plans.

The five-storey building on the town High Street was occupied by Derann Audio Visual, a family-run business famous for supplying cine film and associated equipment, which now operates online instead.

Now a proposal has been submitted to Dudley Council to turn the empty building into five two-bed apartments and two one-bed apartments.

It would see the demolition of the rear wing of the building and the car park would remain.

The work would be carried out in two stages with the second phase seeing a new building with a shop and some of the apartments above.

Protect

In a document attached to the application, it states: "In its current condition the building is vacant and could result in damage by anti-social behaviour."

"In order to protect and retain the architectural features of the listed building from damage it is important to make use of the building as soon as possible."

"Therefore the proposed retention retail shop would be beneficial as the building is located in a busy area."

A decision will be made by Dudley planners in coming weeks.

Tribute show for organist Brian

A CONCERT will take place to remember Dudley organist Brian Sharp, who died earlier this year. Mr Sharp made regular appearances on BBC Radio 2 and was part of the house band on TV shows Pebble Mill at One and Saturday Night at the Mill.

The event will be at the Mercure Kidderminster Hotel, in Habberley Road, Bewdley, on Monday at 8pm with proceeds to the Deanesley Centre Trust at New Cross Hospital.

The concert will feature organists Howard Beaumont, from the Spa Complex in Scarborough; Jean Martyn, of Britain's Got Talent fame, Byron Jones, from Bristol; and Stourbridge's David Ingle. Tickets £10 will be available on the night. Call George Ingle on (01384) 274500.

Fashion show is for church funds

ST Andrew's Church in Bilston Street, Sedgley, will host a fashion show for church funds on Saturday from 7pm. Members and friends of the congregation will model clothes from the church shop. Admission £3.

Rail centre on track to deliver 200 jobs

A MULTI-MILLION pound rail centre will deliver more than 200 jobs and 300 apprenticeships across five years, say council bosses.

Contracts are on the verge of being signed for the £27.8 million very light rail complex at Dudley's Castle Hill. Council chiefs have promised the 'world class' centre will create 225 jobs, 331 apprenticeships and 33 new businesses by 2021.

The route of the very light rail will run from this centre through Dudley Tunnel before terminating close to Cinder Bank. News of the centre's opportunities have been revealed in papers due to come before Dudley Council's cabinet meeting. The document states: "The project will create a world class research, development and educational centre

focussed on the creation of innovative Very Light Rail vehicles on land in the ownership of the Council at Castle Hill. The centre, requiring the use of test track facilities, would be ideally situated adjacent to the mothballed freight line."

Partnership

"Working in partnership with the Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG), other higher education bodies, transport suppliers and neighbouring local authorities, the centre will lead on the development of the vehicles, associated infrastructure and training for the next generation of public transport solutions."

Dudley was one of the biggest communities in the country to be hit as a result of the closures brought

about by Dr Richard Beeching's report. Following his findings the station at the bottom of Castle Hill was closed in July 1964.

Dudley Council's transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, said: "It is not just nationally but internationally significant, as part of the old Beeching lines being reopened."

He added: "It is really good news that it is going to create 225 jobs and more than 300 apprenticeships by the end of 2021, but we are also looking to generate even more job creation."

The modern centre in the shadow of Dudley Castle, will develop and test the next generation of light rail systems, will link Dudley to the national rail network for the first time in more than 50 years.

Shirt over head robber jailed after crime spree

A DRUG addict who raided two bookmakers and a supermarket during a four-day crime spree, and terrified staff who believed he had a gun, has been jailed for six years.

Serial thief Michael Webb had workers running for cover as he burst into two William Hill bookmakers in Stourbridge and also got away with £600 cash from a Sainsbury's, a judge heard.

Webb, aged 37, went into the stores holding up an item covered by a carrier bag, which he led staff to believe was a gun - he later said it was just a rolled up newspaper.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard how he targeted William Hill in Wollaston at around 9pm on August 12. The robber demanded the man working behind the counter fill up his bag with cash. Believing Webb to have a gun, the worker fled from the counter to a back office and called the police.

Ms Joanne Barker, prosecuting, told the court that Webb, who has racked up 19 convictions and had been given a suspended prison sentence for burglary three days earlier, then abandoned the robbery attempt.

But tried his luck again less than an hour later at Sainsbury's in Wollaston and this time was successful.

Alarm

Ms Barker said: "He ran into the store with his shirt over his head and again demanded money. The assistant activated the alarm and, believing the defendant had a gun, complied with his demands."

Three days later, at around 9pm, Webb tried to get his hands on more money at William Hill in Ambleside but was again thwarted. This time he had socks covering his hands and arms to cover his distinctive tattoos, the court heard.

Again, the raider held up a bag, which the frightened man behind the counter believed had a gun inside. But after the worker ran to an office, Webb was unable to get past the glass screen and left empty-handed.

Webb, of Kingsway, Wollaston, who the court heard was a cocaine addict, was caught after stealing a pack of razor blades from a Tesco store. He was found in possession of a kitchen knife in Birmingham Street, Stourbridge.

Webb pleaded guilty to robbery, two counts of attempted robbery, theft and possession of an article with a blade or point.

Fizzogs take new show on tour



The Fizzogs - Jackie, Sue and Deb - as the Dancing Grannies, seen at Stourbridge Carnival

BLACK Country comedy group The Fizzogs have a new comedy sketch show that is going on tour from December to March.

Sue, Jackie and Deb will feature many of the famous Fizzogs characters, including the dancing grannies that became an internet sensation.

Fizzog Productions last month took the show to the Edinburgh Fringe, their second trip to the huge arts festival in the Scottish

capital. Also appearing with the Fizzogs will be Black country comedian Jonny Cole.

The first dates for the show, which is suitable for the over-14s, are at Netherton Arts Centre from December 15 to 17 and it will then be staged at Birmingham's Crescent Theatre from January 12 to 14.

Tickets will be £15 for all performances and can be booked through the website at www.

thefizzogs.com and there will also be a performance at Kidderminster's Rose Theatre on February 4 and at the Theatre on the Steps in Bridgnorth from February 9 to 11.

Fizzog Productions was formed in 2000 by Sue Hawkins, Jackie Fellows and Deb Nicholls. They will also stage A Black Country Fairy Tale... Ay It! at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre on October 27. Call the Grand's box office on 01902 429 212

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



AS the row over grammar schools rages on, it occurs to me that the five Rhodes Boys – I was the second of five sons – must have been a rare thing among the education statistics. All five of us passed the 11-plus to grammar school but not one of us went to university.

I DON'T recall the 11-plus being particularly difficult, even if some of the questions were bonkers. I remember one test paper where you had to fill in the missing word: "In the park we throw c-----s for the birds." The correct answer was "crumbs" but half of us put "crusts". We argued that crumbs are far too light to be thrown and this paper had obviously been written by someone who never fed the birds. In the face of a revolt, the teacher backed down and gave us the marks.

I TAKE issue, too, with one of the many questions from original 11-plus papers now being reprinted in the newspapers: "How many thirds are there in nine?" The "correct" answer is 27 and I can see why. But if you take the view that everything, from a sack of coal to a 1,000-metre race, is made up of three thirds then there are three thirds in nine, each third being three. I may have passed my 11-plus but I managed to fail maths O-level three times.

MONDAY: David Cameron stands down as an MP, saying he does not want to be a "distraction" to MP Theresa May. Wednesday: the Commons foreign affairs committee criticises the Cameron government for its intervention in Libya. There may be a connection. And yet how many politicians and pundits who



are now castigating Cameron and drawing wild comparisons with Blair's war on Iraq were leading the "we must do something" campaign back in 2011? Remember the pitiful images of terrified Libyan children appealing to the world to help? A massacre in Benghazi seemed imminent. How could we not intervene? Action was approved by the United Nations. Hindsight is always crystal-clear.

I INTERVIEWED Cameron a few times. He struck me as an essentially decent man who answered straight questions with far straighter answers than some politicians I could mention.

THERE is a serious purpose to my trip to Yorkshire. Exactly 100 years ago, my grandfather's brother, 20-year-old Private Alvin Smith, was in a front-line trench on the Somme. It was the last day of his life. A century on, in his home village, we will remember him.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Corbyn says let's unite and move forward

LABOUR leader Jeremy Corbyn has called on Ian Austin to unite with him and 'move forward' with the party under his leadership. It came as reports surfaced of a plan to oust fellow Black Country MP Tom Watson from his position as deputy leader, which has been denied by Mr Corbyn.

The Labour leader was speaking to The Chronicle's sister newspaper

the Express & Star following a leadership rally in Birmingham which attracted thousands of supporters on Saturday.

Asked what his message would be to the Dudley North MP included on a 'hit-list' of rebels, Mr Corbyn said: "I know Ian like I know other Labour MPs and I will be talking to Ian and all of them and say, 'well, actually on issues on austerity, economics and

the politics which go with that we are united. We can move forward, and as we defeated the Tories on tax credits, we can do the same on these."

Mr Austin has been a vocal opponent of Mr Corbyn since he took office last year.

Mr Austin responded to his leader's comments, saying: "Jeremy keeps calling for unity, but last week members were really dismayed to see

his team publish a divisive hit-list of MPs

"I want a united, competent Labour Party that can earn the trust of people in the Black Country and win an election. Jeremy needs to put together a competent team, set out policies that win the public's trust, persuade them he's a potential Prime Minister and take us ahead in the polls."

Austin fury over Labour leader's hit-list of MPs

By Peter Madeley

FURIOUS Ian Austin has accused Jeremy Corbyn of hypocrisy after he was criticised for undermining the Labour leader on a 'hit-list' of party rebels.

The Dudley North MP was among 13 Labour politicians – including deputy leader and fellow Black Country MP Tom Watson – that were said to have abused Mr Corbyn and his allies in a list distributed to the media.

His inclusion is thought to relate to a Commons debate on the Chilcot report in July, during which he told the Labour leader to 'shut up' and shouted 'you're a disgrace'.

Mr Austin said: "Members won't understand how Jeremy can call for unity, but then issue a hit list of MPs that includes our deputy leader. Labour needs to get the leadership election over and focus on taking the fight to the Tories."

Mr Corbyn's campaign team said the list was a draft press release that had not been signed off and was issued accidentally, but he did not apologise for its release during last Wednesday night's televised Labour hustings.

Grassroots

West Bromwich East MP Mr Watson received an apology from shadow chancellor John McDonnell's media advisor, James Mills, after he was included on the list for calling grassroots campaign group Momentum a 'rabble'.

Mr Watson said: "I have received an apology on behalf of the campaign and that's good enough for me. You get hotheads in any campaign team, but this has been dealt with in the right way."

The list also features Birmingham Yardley MP Jess Phillips, who said she received a threat that was linked to being named on the list. It also includes Mr Corbyn's leadership opponent Owen Smith.

Mr Austin has been a vocal opponent of Mr Corbyn since he took office last year, and has admitted to opposing him on a raft of key issues.



Labour deputy leader Tom Watson received an apology after his inclusion on the party rebel list



Dudley North MP Ian Austin during a Commons debate



Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn is under fire

Too many homes left empty, says councillor

A DUDLEY councillor has called on the Government to focus on refurbishing empty properties to help ease the housing crisis.

According to Government statistics there are currently 600,000 empty homes in the UK and Bill Etheridge said they should be used to house people struggling to find somewhere to live.

UKIP Euro MP Mr Etheridge, who represents Sedgley on Dudley Council, also attacked landlords who leave properties empty.

He claimed that cutting immigration could help solve the problem.

He said: "It is very important that the Government speed up refurbishments and transactions in order to get these UK families housed."

Curb

"The continuation of mass immigration has seen property prices rise to the point where there is now a buy-to-leave market, where owners are simply leaving property empty and watching its value increase.

"A curb on the levels of migrants would make this option less attractive. If these steps are taken there would be no need for unnecessary large scale building. Unless, of course, there is a hidden agenda? "Are these proposed houses being built for our citizens or is the Government planning to allow immigration to continue at its current level?"

"I think it's time we had some answers as to what is happening."

Riders turning out for funeral tribute

MORE than 100 motorcyclists were due to form a procession for the funeral of an apprentice engineer, who died in a road accident at Brierley Hill earlier this month.

The procession was honouring Elliott Beddow, of Stourton, who died on September 3 after he came off his Harley Davidson during the accident on Brettell Lane.

The procession was due to set off from this home before his funeral yesterday (Wednesday) at Stourbridge Crematorium.

Phil Beavens, funeral director H Porter and Sons, in Stourbridge, said: "Although he was only 20, he was a member of a number of motorcycle groups and very well thought of by his family, close friends and peers."

Chess club forced to close after 40 years

IT'S checkmate for Hagley Chess Club, which has been forced to close due to falling membership.

Hagley Chess Club, which formed in the 1970s, took the reluctant decision to close at the club's annual general meeting in May.

Cloudy2Clear Announce Trusted Trader Partnership



Consumer champions Which? have now joined the thousands of customers who recognise that Cloudy2Clear Windows really are a business that you can TRUST. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has received the coveted 'Which Trusted Trader' status after going through a rigorous accreditation process entirely focussed on customer service.

Group Managing Director Marcus McGee believes that Which? have endorsed Cloudy2Clear's long standing company policy of delivering the highest standards possible at all times. 'Our service is simple. If your double glazing has misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Whilst a number of tradespeople

perhaps don't focus on customer care as much as they should do, we make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle.

Locally Cloudy2Clear service Dudley & the surrounding areas and manager Brian Stanley agrees that this approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good

business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated as both my customers and, obviously a body as nationally important as Which? now recognise.'

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Drug addict burglar in halfway house raid

A BURGLAR with a drug problem, who stole from the halfway house where he had been living, has been locked up for more than two years.

Scott Harris kept the keys to the property after being evicted and used them to get into the address in Highgate Road, Brierley Hill.

The 31-year-old father-of-four took a tumble dryer.

He was identified as the culprit on CCTV film of the August 12 incident and was arrested six days later.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that on June 14 he had stolen a PlayStation games console from the home of his sister which he sold to fund his drug addiction.

Mrs Sati Ruck, prosecuting, said both crimes broke the terms of a 12-month suspended prison sentence imposed on the defendant for an unrelated offence.

Heroin

Mr Richard Davenport, defending, said: "He has had difficulties with the use of heroin and crack and had spiralled back into addiction."

"It was not a normal dwelling house burglary. This was an establishment that housed people with problems. It was shared supported accommodation."

Harris from Wavell Road, Quarry Bank admitted burglary, theft and breaching the terms of the suspended sentence, which was activated in full.

He was jailed for a total of two years for four months.

National pet show on way to the NEC

THE National Pet Show is coming to Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre in November.

The exhibition over the weekend of November 5 and 6 will feature many animal experts and celebrities from the small screen.

These will include Channel 4's Supervet Professor Noel Fitzpatrick, who will be presenting the Eukanuba Supervet Live, and BBC's Spring and Autumn Watch presenter Michaela Strachan, who is hosting SuperDogs Live.

Adult tickets for the show are priced at £17 and child tickets are priced at £12.

For more information on this year's event visit www.thenationalpetshow.com website.

Musical needs a hand backstage

A THEATRE group needs backstage help for its next production. Trinity Musical Theatre Company stages The Witches of Eastwick in the Mill Theatre at the Dormston Centre, Sedgley, in November. Call 07428 001237.

Youngsters climb as a tribute to brother



Martha and Archie with fundraising manager Karen Phillips

A YOUNG boy whose twin brother died during his birth has raised cash for a hospital 10 years on.

Eight-year-old Archie Bradburn, of Moor Lane, Pattingham, climbed Snowdon with family and friends, raising just under £700 for the Maternity Unit and Bereavement Services at Russell's Hall Hospital in Dudley.

During labour on September 17 2006, Archie's mother, Kelly Bradburn, lost her son Alfie due to complications.

Now, Archie and his younger sister Martha, aged seven, have raised just

under £700 for the maternity unit at Russell's Hall in memory of their brother and to thank them for their hard work.

They climbed Snowdon alongside Kelly, 36, her 39-year-old husband Martyn - who works for JLR - and family friends Michelle and Stephen Handley and their children Freddie and Josie.

Kelly, a cabin crew worker for Monarch, said not a day goes by where she doesn't think about Alfie, who was died after she suffered a miscarriage at 20 weeks back in September 2006.

However, an innovative procedure meant Archie was saved and born healthy in January 2007.

Archie wanted to do some fundraising this year for the hospital in aid of the brother he never got to know.

"For their little legs it was very challenging," Kelly said. "But they hardly complained at all."

"When they got to the bottom they said next time around they will be going to Everest."

"After we left the hospital Archie was already talking about what he can do next year."

Muggers hunted after attack on grandfather

POLICE have launched a hunt for muggers who attacked a terminally-ill pensioner as he went to get his hair cut in Brierley Hill town centre.

Roy Weston was robbed of his and his wife's weekly pension money in broad daylight last Monday morning, September 12.

The 78-year-old grandfather was pushed from behind by a man and a woman as the callous thieves pounced.

Mr Weston had picked up the pension money from the post office and had walked the short distance to Pepe's hairdressers in High Street at around 9.20am. He was attacked as he was about to walk through the door.

The frail victim, who was diagnosed with terminal prostate cancer last year, was left shaken by the attack.

Mr Weston, who lives in Brierley Hill, said: "I left the wife in the hairdressers and went to the post office. I went back to the hairdressers and as I opened the door a man and a woman came from behind me and pushed me into the hairdressers. Before I realised it, my money had gone."

Frightened

Mr Weston and his wife Maureen, 76, have been left scared to go into the town centre following the incident. He said: "It has knocked us about a bit, with my cancer. It has really upset us, it has frightened us."

"We are frightened to go up the town and I have been going for years and years. I'll always be looking behind."

His daughter Diane, 49, said: "I'm angry and upset. Dad was diagnosed with terminal cancer last November and he has kept a smile on his face and not let it beat him but after this happened he cried a lot at home. He felt useless and I don't want this to happen to anyone else."

Miss Weston pleaded with anybody who saw what happened to help police catch the culprits.

She said: "To mug an OAP of their pension money is disgusting."

"If anybody has got information about what happened please come forward. How would you feel if it was your parents who had just been mugged? Please come forward."

Mr Weston previously worked at the Marsh and Baxter meat factory in the town before retirement.

West Midlands Police spokeswoman Gina Lycett said: "We are appealing for information after a man had his pension stolen in Brierley Hill."

"Anyone with information is urged to contact West Midlands Police or to contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555111."



Maureen Weston, with her husband Roy, who was mugged in the street after collecting their pension money

Free spooky Halloween fun for families

FAMILIES can enjoy two free Halloween trails with prizes up for grabs.

The events will be taking place during next half term, from October 22 to 31.

A spooky trail will be available from Netherton and Brierley Hill libraries to lead families around the two town centres.

Youngsters who solve the clues can put their completed forms

into a prize draw and a winner will be picked at each library.

Netherton Library holds the Halloween trail on October 28 when there will also be storytelling at 11am and themed craft activities throughout the day. The Brierley Hill trail is on October 29 with the stories and craft activities taking place from 1pm.

The winners will get a family ticket for the Himley Hall bon-

fire and fireworks show, worth £23 plus free parking. Youngsters are asked to wear spooky fancy dress for the storytelling.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "I hope that families make the most of this opportunity to spend time in our town centres whilst enjoying the fun of Halloween."

Visit www.discoverdudley.org.uk for further details.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police seeking owners of tools

POLICE officers are appealing for help to find the owners of power tools recovered during an investigation.

A number of the stolen tools have been traced back to victims from Dudley, the Black Country, as well as Staffordshire and West Mercia.

The tools were recovered at a property in Coesley on August 12.

Officers would like to return the remaining tools to the rightful owners.

If anyone has had any power tools stolen prior to August 12, email PC Naomi Smith on n.e.smith@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

Society planning a Rotten show

THE Tab Operatic Society is marking its 70th anniversary year by performing comedy musical Dirty Rotten Scoundrels.

The group has successfully secured the performing rights for the hit West End show and has hired Stourbridge Town Hall Theatre for the large scale musical. The move of venue will be only Tab's second in its history, having previously performed at the Tabernacle Church Hall in Old Hill and, more recently, Brierley Hill Civic Hall.

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels will be performed from March 27 to April 1.

Bluetones singer at the Scarycanary

A SINGER-SONGWRITER who fronted a popular 1990s band will be performing in Stourbridge next month.

Bluetones frontman Mark Morris will be taking to the stage of Scarycanary The Venue, on High Street, on October 1.

New songs and Bluetones favourites will be performed on the night. Tickets cost £8 in advance or £10. Doors open 7pm. To book visit www.wegotickets.com/event/367523

Coffee and cake with MP to help Macmillan

DUDLEY South MP Mike Wood will be holding a coffee morning later this month to raise money for cancer charity Macmillan.

The event will take place at his new constituency office in Wordsley, 111A High Street, on September 30, running from 10am to 2pm.

It is being held as part of Macmillan national awareness campaign which is run every year. Turn up on the day to take part and make a small donation for a coffee and slice of cake.

Pub joins charity event

A STOURBRIDGE pub is holding an event for a cancer charity.

The Starving Rascal pub on the corner of Collis Street and Brettell Lane, will be hosting a fundraiser as part of Macmillan Cancer Support's World's Biggest Coffee Morning on Friday, September 30, from 11am.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



On your bike! They are also to blame

BRAVO! West Midlands Police have been employing undercover officers in plain clothes to ride around the area on bikes to catch motorists who do not leave enough space when overtaking.

And they have been very busy, it seems, with 38 prosecutions over the summer. Good work all round.

The only thing that surprises me about all this is that we are still allowed to overtake cyclists. I would have thought by now it would surely have been classed as a 'hate crime', like wolf-whistling is in Nottingham.

In the balance of fairness, though, I'm sure that an equal number of undercover police officers will now be deployed to catch cyclists who use the pavements as a motorway, ride two abreast on narrow country lanes, and – most annoyingly of all – treat red traffic lights as if they apply solely to other road users.

Because I'm sure nobody would want to see one group given preferential treatment over another.

□ □ □

SATURDAY night television, particularly reality television, is something I normally give a wide berth. X Factor, Come Dancin', Dancing on Ice or whatever, I usually avoid it like anthrax. However, I will level with you, the other Saturday I accidentally caught a bit of X Factor. Only a few minutes, but nevertheless I apologise for momentarily contributing to the viewing figures and I will try not to do it again.

Two thoughts sprang to mind. Why does anybody watch this tired, cliché-ridden nonsense? And secondly, why is Meg Richardson off Crossroads on the judging panel?



So who is judge – Sharon Osbourne or Crossroads' Meg Richardson?

□ □ □

IF, as expected, Jeremy Corbyn is re-elected Labour leader this Saturday, he might want to thank Birmingham reggae group UB40 who backed his campaign. Or at least some of them did. You see, UB40 is now split into two factions each laying claim to the name. On one hand, Brian Travers, Robin and Duncan Campbell, Norman Hassan, Jimmy Brown and Earl Falconer, were in Team Corbyn. The other faction made up of former frontman Ali Campbell, Mickey Virtue and Terence 'Astro' Oswald, have not, as far as I am aware, declared a position.

The three Campbells, are all brothers, but Ali fell out with Robin and Duncan some years ago. Splits, factions, good thing none of that goes on in politics.



Prof Charalambos Vlachopoulos



Newspaper articles often warn of the possible dangers of vaping



Councillor Richard Overton

'Vaping' at heart of new health warning

Worrying new research has cast doubt on the safety of electronic cigarettes. Report by MARK ANDREWS.

TEN years ago, electronic cigarettes were practically unheard of. Last year it was estimated that there were 2.6 million "vapers" in Britain alone.

The sight of people sucking on metal pen-shaped objects, emitting clouds of sweet-smelling vapour has become a familiar one as people turn to e-cigs in an attempt to give up smoking.

But now concerns have been raised that vaping could be as bad for the heart as smoking cigarettes. Worrying new research has found that the use of electronic cigarettes caused similar effects to the main heart artery as smoking the real thing.

The research, which was presented at the world's largest cardiology conference, flies in the face of advice from Public Health England, which last year said vaping is 95 per cent less harmful than tobacco.

Prescribe

It called for GPs to be able to prescribe e-cigarettes on the NHS to help people quit smoking.

Speaking at the European Society for Cardiology congress in Rome, Professor Charalambos Vlachopoulos, from the University of Athens Medical School, said experiments were carried out on 24 adults with an average age of 30, examining the immediate effects of e-cigarettes and smoking.

They found that the effects from a 30-minute session of vaping – seen as a typical habit as e-cigarettes deliver nicotine at a slower rate than cigarettes – were similar to those from smoking a cigarette for five minutes.

Prof Vlachopoulos warned that the UK had "rushed into" championing vaping as a method to help give up smoking, and said he



This is a more and more familiar sight as people have switched to vaping

would not recommend the use of e-cigarettes.

The findings come amid growing controversy about the safety of e-cigarettes, with little research available on the long term effects of vaping.

Prof Peter Weissberg, medical director at the British Heart Foundation, said: "Although the study was not designed to show whether electronic cigarettes can cause long term damage to our blood vessels, it shows that they cannot be assumed to be risk free.

"Much more research is needed to establish the safety of long-term use of these devices." Councillor Richard Overton, Telford & Wrekin Council's cabinet member for health, says that while it is too early to know the long-term effects of vaping, it is almost certainly safer than smoking tobacco.

He says: "Quitting smoking is the single best thing that anyone can do for their health,

and we know that the vast majority of people who use electronic cigarettes are using them to stop smoking.

"The evidence suggests that electronic cigarettes are very likely to carry a fraction of the risk to people's health of smoking regular cigarettes. However, it is impossible for anyone to know the long term effects of vaping and we certainly cannot say that electronic cigarettes are completely risk free especially for anyone who is not or has not been a smoker.

"There is little evidence of harmful effects in the short to medium term, and an absence of evidence of significant harm to bystanders caused by e-cigarettes," says the Healthy Shropshire website.

"E-cigs are not harmless, the vapour they produce contains some toxins, but studies have shown that these are at levels far lower than those found in tobacco smoke.

"On the available evidence, using an e-cigarette is a great deal safer than smoking.

"There are unanswered questions on the effects of longer term use however, and we don't know about any risks to the unborn baby from exposure to vapour."

The authority adds that while mothers-to-be who smoke are advised to use licensed nicotine replacement products rather than e-cigs, they should not be discouraged from vaping if it helps them stop smoking.

"Emerging evidence suggests some of the highest successful quit rates are now seen among smokers who use an e-cigarette and also receive additional support from their local stop smoking services," the Shropshire Council website adds.

Research commissioned by Action on Smoking and Health has shown that the total cost to society in England of smoking is approximately £13.9 billion a year.

This includes the cost to the NHS of treating diseases caused by smoking which is about £2 billion a year.

Rosanna O'Connor, from Public Health England, argues that vaping "carries a fraction of the risk of smoking".

Deborah Arnott, chief executive of Ash said the Athens study did not prove that e-cigarettes were as hazardous as smoking.

Evidence

Gary Footman, who runs Ecigwizd in Wellington, says he has yet to see any hard evidence that there are any dangers attached to vaping, let alone that it was as dangerous as smoking tobacco.

"It's just a broad statement with no evidence to support it," he says.

"Public Health England are saying it is 95 per cent safer than smoking cigarettes and most doctors are telling people who smoke to vape as an alternative to smoking, maybe as a way of quitting altogether. It is certainly safer than smoking."

He added that the liquids used in e-cigarettes contained no carcinogens, unlike cigarettes which contained thousands of chemicals.

"A lot of my customers say if it wasn't for vaping they would still be smoking," Mr Footman adds.

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Level playing field may hold students back

IT appears that the powers that be are still trying to lump us together.

I was fortunate enough to pass the entrance exam and interview for grammar school. Against everyone's expectations.

I was not in any way a brilliant student and struggled my way to five GCEs, as the qualifications were then known.

However, 17 years after leaving school I went to evening classes covering a subject which I had failed at GCE.

I was the oldest in the class and passed my exam with 86 per cent, which gained me a credit. The point is, we do not all learn at the same speed.

Many folk are brilliant from a young age, whatever their background. Some of us struggle and learn more slowly.

I feel that by trying to level the playing field in respect to education is quite possibly holding back the more early learners, whilst destroying the confidence of the slower learners.

I was a product of a grammar school as was my late brother. He was a quick learner whilst I developed later in life.

However, in spite of being physically disabled, certain of my teachers recognised something in me which they pushed me into doing.

I remember refereeing a game in our gym display and was given minor roles in our school plays.

I doubt that this would have happened if my education had been anything other than it was.

I am, because of this, all in favour of grammar schools.

LEN HALES
Cradley Heath

Don't need to worry about Dave

SO there we have it, David Cameron throws his toys out of the pram.

This is the person whose achievements can be written on the back of a matchbox, ie gay marriage and six years of failed Tory austerity.

Many people in the UK will be feeling the effects of that austerity for many decades to come.

His party has put more people into poverty in living memory in this country than any other.

He now wants to do work for charity, perhaps he can hand food parcels out at local food banks, which his party is famous for creating.

Maybe he could even change the name of them to Cameron's food store.

The Cameron legacy, which he made me become a member of at the age of 60 after working for over 40 years, is his party put me out of work.

Thank you Dave.
C LLOYD
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

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Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

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expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Don't just improve education for an elite

I'M somewhat bewildered that grammar schools are this Government's hot new potato. It seems to have come completely out of the blue after being shelved for many years, what with Brexit, financial problems, Trident, HS2, the NHS crisis, to mention just a few. They are now stirring up a furore where there does not have to be one.

I cannot remember this matter being mentioned in their manifesto. I was not aware the public had concerns over grammar schools. What I was aware of was the public had concerns over the standard of our education.

Without consultation this Government has taken upon itself to again waste millions on something we do not need. What we do need is millions spent of the education of all pupils and not just the selected few, whereby again we will end up with elitism.

Where will the teachers come from to maintain grammar schools, let me guess, they will deplete our comprehensives, which in turn will further reduce any hopes of the young.

Well done Conservatives, another policy the general public had no choice in. Just let the peasants do all the work and the elite get all the benefits, as usual.

PETER LOWE
Brierley Hill

This choir deserve to be on TV

I FELT I had to write to sing the praises - excuse the pun - of The Coseley Male Voice Choir.

On September 3 at William Street Church, Brierley Hill, they provided an evening of wonderful entertainment on behalf of the The Black Country Fibromyalgia Support Group, held monthly at the Nine Locks Community Centre, Brierley Hill, of which I am a member.

They kindly gave up their time for free and raised a considerable amount of money for us.

They were fantastic, treating us to a medley of songs. As for the musical director Ray, well what can I say, he put his heart and soul into the performance, as did the choir. And let us not forget Steve playing on the piano.

They were all like polished professionals, and in my honest opinion, they should be on TV.

JANINE TAYLOR-BLAKE
Dudley

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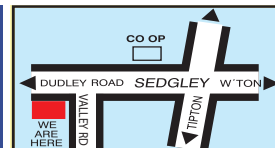
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Curtain up on Grand's dazzling new look



The unveiling of the Grand's new backcloth with, front, from left, director Vicky Price, committee member Mike Barlow and director Iain Watkins; back, chief executive Adrian Jackson, Friends treasurer Richard Bourne, Friends chairman Gordon Hands and committee member Tony Gull

VISITORS to Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre will be seeing stars in their eyes when they visit the Lichfield Street venue thanks to a dazzling new stage backcloth that cost £25,000.

The hi-tech curtains laced with LED lights have been bought by The Friends of the Grand as a major contribution towards the theatre's £1.1 million revamp, which has given the much-loved playhouse a glamorous 1920s ambience.

Treasurer of the Friends committee, Richard Bourne, said: "It is a major as-

piration of the committee to support the theatre in every way possible.

"Our membership which has grown significantly over the last few years and now has associated membership numbers approaching 5,000.

Support

"We are the third largest organisation of its type in the UK. We want to keep growing in order to support the theatre and help chief executive Adrian Jackson and his team bring the best productions to Wolverhampton."

The Friends of the Grand offer a single membership for £21 per year, joint membership at £26, and member benefits include 15 per cent off most ticket prices. Members also get priority booking on most productions and invites to special events.

"It really is a great money saver but also a wonderful way to support your local theatre," added Mr Bourne.

To join ask at the Grand box office, pick up a leaflet or join online at www.grandtheatre.co.uk/become-a-member/friendsofthegrand website.

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'Cathedral' window is being restored to glory



Site foreman Bryan Furber has looks at the rose window at 'the cathedral of the Black Country', St Mark's Church, Pensnett

WORK is under way at a church known as 'the cathedral of the Black Country' to restore one of its beautiful stained-glass windows following a two-year fundraising campaign.

The £33,000 appeal was launched by parishioners at St Mark's in Pensnett after a large chunk of masonry fell in 2014, prompting a safety scare.

Priest-in-charge Reverend Sue Oliver said: "If it had fallen on somebody's head it could have killed them."

Money has come in steadily with

£18,000 collected through fundraising, boosted by a £10,000 gift by the late church treasurer Robert Morgan.

Church-goers are hoping to take a considerable step towards paying off the rest of the bill at an event to celebrate the church's 167th anniversary.

A gift day is planned for Sunday when visitors will be asked to towards the cost of completing the work.

The Grade II-listed building, built in the 1840s, is highly regarded for its architecture and is one of three local churches funded by Lord Ward, the Earl of Dudley.

It is admired for its imposing site on a hillside, ambitious scale and impres-

sive interior. The story goes that Lord Ward wanted to build St Mark's bigger and better than the other churches after falling out with leaders at nearby St Thomas's. He tried to commission a steeple higher than the other church but was prevented because of the danger of subsidence caused by mining.

Scaffolding has gone up around the stained-glass rose window. It is hoped the work will be completed by Christmas.

The gift day starts at 9am with a short service followed by breakfast and the main service at 10.30am. The church will stay open until a Songs of Praise service at 4pm.

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Family's thanks for the care of Macmillan nurses



Leah, Elliott, Alfie, Liam and Courtney during the bag pack at the Sedgley Co-op to raise money for Macmillan

THE family of a man who was supported by Macmillan nurses before his death have carried out a supermarket bag pack in Sedgley to raise money for the work of the nurses who helped him.

Keith Astbury was 66 when he died on August 13 at his home on Catherton Close, Tipton, after being diagnosed with terminal throat cancer just nine weeks before.

Daughter-in-law Karen Astbury,

aged 39, of Ettingshall Park, Wolverhampton, who is married to Keith's son Craig Astbury said: "We wanted to do something positive after the recent loss and raise some money for Macmillan Cancer Support."

Karen and Craig's son Elliott, 11, helped to organise the supermarket bag pack on August 22 and 23 at the Co-op in Sedgley.

Grandchildren

Keith's eldest grandchildren, twins Courtney and Leah, aged 15, who live in Greece most of the year with their mother, also helped to organise the

bag pack while staying with their father Karl, 41, for the summer.

Elliott and the twins were joined by his friends Alfie Smith, Liam Hunt, Poppy Nicholls and Ellie-Mae James, who all attended Cotwall End Primary School.

Mrs Astbury added: "Many customers commented on how polite and helpful the children were. The customers were very generous and we actually collected approximately £380 on the Monday and £460 on the Tuesday giving a grand total of £840!"

Elliott will also take part in a 5k fun for the Macmillan nurses. So far, he has raised almost £650.

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Museum folk on award shortlist

VOLUNTEERS at the Black Country Living Museum have been shortlisted in a new award initiative.

The Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust have launched a volunteer award scheme for museums in the West Midlands region, through their West Midlands Development Programme, funded by Arts Council England.

The West Midlands Volunteer Awards have been created to recognise and reward the invaluable role and significant contribution made by volunteers to the museums in the region.

The Black Country Living Museum's community engagement group have been shortlisted in the 'Working Together' category.

The awards aim to highlight the energy, enthusiasm and expertise of volunteers and the thousands of hours of support they give.

Police going to get tough on motorists over cyclist safety

MOTORISTS have been warned to expect a 'zero tolerance' approach as details emerged of plans by West Midlands Police to improve safety for cyclists.

More inconsiderate drivers could see themselves being prosecuted for close passes, as the force aim to 'change driver behaviour and concentrate minds on looking out for vulnerable road users'. The force's traffic unit has outlined measures it intends to use in a comprehensive blog, called WMP Traffic. The plans come after a review, which found safety campaigns are relatively ineffective compared to prosecutions.

The blog states: "We could make use of social media, press releases, etc, to tell motorists to 'look out' for cyclists, but this has been ongoing with both cyclists and motorcyclists and, although has some positive effect, it doesn't reach the target audience.

"Our time and effort is better spent enforcing the law and prosecuting. Once drivers become aware that an infringement involving a cyclist is one they should expect to be prosecuted for, they suddenly become more aware of them on the road and in turn start giving them the time and space they should lawfully have.

"Drivers need to expect a zero tolerance approach for any offence involving a vulnerable road user, or an offence that could contribute

to a collision involving a vulnerable road user. The only way to change driver behaviour and concentrate minds on looking out for vulnerable road users and change driving habits is through enforcement, and the resulting fear of being prosecuted."

The Traffic Unit plans to put an officer on a cycle in problems areas. The blog adds: "We have a new partnership scheme which will see a traffic officer riding the most vulnerable locations for cyclists looking to instantly act upon close passes, distracted driving and the like. The officer when passed too close will let the officer up the road know, who will in turn stop the motorist. The offender will be given a choice, prosecution or 15 minutes spent being educated."

Extra elves call for grotto

PREPARATIONS are already under way for the popular Santa Boat trips at Dudley Canal Trust.

For more than 30 years visitors have been taking the magical journey to visit Santa and his elves in the limestone grotto deep in the Dudley Caverns under Castle Hill.

This year there will be a Hansel and Gretel pantomime and again, of course, gifts for all the children.

"Christmas is such a special time and our visitors love to be able to see Santa on such a fun and exciting boat trip," said Holly Wain, heritage activities assistant.

Bookings are already being taken. Meanwhile, Dudley Canal Trust are also seeking potential elves, who should call 0121 557 6265 or email info@dudleycanaltrust.org.uk

Plants removed from landmark



A cherry picker is used to removed buddleia from the Red House Glass Cone

PLANTS which sprouted from the sides of the Black Country's famous Red House Glass Cone are being removed after it emerged they were damaging the landmark.

A cherry-picker has been sent almost 100ft into the air to remove buddleia plants which have grown out the top and sides of the building in Wordsley. It was crucial they are pulled out as it is believed they could damage the brickwork.

Any damaged joins will be filled in using a replica of the building's original mortar from the 1780s.

Dudley Council's regeneration boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "The Red House Glass Cone is an iconic part of the Wordsley skyline and a mark of Black Country pride in the region's glass-making heritage. Maintaining it is not only important for the cone's long-term structural integrity

but also for civic pride in this impressive structure, which continues to be a popular visitor attraction and creative business hub."

The issue has been a common problem in recent years and a small tree growing out of the structure has previously been removed from the brickwork.

Officials from the authority have previously said preventing weeds from growing at the site was difficult. The weeds and plants grow from seeds which become airborne and lodge in the cone's brickwork.

The Red House Glass Cone was built between 1788 and 1794 by Richard Bradley and functioned as a glassworks until 1936, although the site was still used for storage by then owners Stuart Crystal until the factory closed in 2001. The site then opened as a visitor attraction the following year.

Rebecca is crowned queen of the blues

RISING Black Country blues rock 'n' soul star Rebecca Downes was crowned winner of the Best Female Vocalist and Best Emerging Artist categories at the annual British Blues Awards.

The ceremony for the awards, set up in 2010 to recognise the talent on the British Blues scene, took place at Newark Blues Festival in Nottinghamshire, announcing the winners as voted for by the public from a shortlist. Rebecca beat competition from runners-up Connie Lush and Kaz Hawkins in the Female Vocalist category and Voodoo Sheiks in the Emerging Artist category.

Rebecca, from Wolverhampton, was also named runner up in the Best Blues Song category for her single Believe, also the title track of her album, which won acclaim from BBC Radio 2's blues show host Paul Jones, among others. She is due to perform at Bilston's Robin 2 on November 12 as part of the Third UK Blues Challenge concert.

Focus on eye care

ACTIVITIES are taking place this week as part of a national campaign to promote eye care with a Sedgley centre taking a leading role. National Eye Health Week aims to raise awareness of the need to have regular eye tests.

The Beacon Centre, a leading sight loss charity, is holding a range of events. The restaurant at its Sedgley site will be serving up eye health friendly foods. On Saturday a golf tournament will take place at the Mark Butler Golf Academy.

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FOCUS ON SEDGLEY AND GORNAL

Bill will back new leader but still has eye on top job

PLANS to introduce 20mph zones on roads around schools – including St Chad's RC Primary in Sedgley – have been welcomed by a councillor.

The speed limit would be reduced outside 16 schools in Dudley borough, while a raft of other safety measures would be brought in.

Sedgley councillor Bill Etheridge has campaigned for changes in Catholic Lane, Sedgley, outside St Chad's RC Primary School.

He said: "I very much welcome news that action may at long last be taken to improve road safety. I, along with many residents, have been campaigning for several years for much-needed action to be taken to clamp down on speeding and parking issues on Catholic Lane."

The speed limit would also be brought down at Cotwall End Primary.

Aida on stage at the Mill

WEST Bromwich Operatic Society will perform Aida from October 5 to 8 at the Dormston Mill Theatre in Sedgley.

Fire-fighter Lyndon Flavell from Penn takes the role of Radames, whilst mother of twins and professional singer, Tasheka Coe from Tettenhall, takes the title role.

Tickets are £15.50 each from www.ticketsource.co.uk/event/132241 or visit www.wbos.co.uk for more information.

EURO MP Bill Etheridge has vowed to give his full support to new UKIP leader Diane James but says he will be back for another tilt at the top job in the future.

The Sedgley councillor came third on 12.7 per cent in the party's contest to replace Nigel Farage, which saw Ms James storm to victory on 48 per cent.

But Mr Etheridge, who is also a UKIP West Midlands

MEP, said he was amazed to receive more than 2,000 votes in the members ballot, citing it as evidence that his profile had risen sharply during his leadership campaign.

"I was a complete unknown in UKIP circles on a national scale before this campaign, so to get the support that I did is just incredible," he said.

"I'm sorry to disappoint many of my opponents, particularly those in the Labour party, but I'm not going away anytime soon.

"This campaign has proved to me that there is a place in the party for people with forthright opinions.

"Should the leaders position come up in future, and providing I feel I can build on this level of support, I see no reason why I wouldn't go for it again."

Mr Etheridge's campaign, dubbed 'Billie in Bill', was marked by the launch of a series of controversial pol-

By Peter Madeley

icy proposals. They included bringing back the death penalty, charging prisoners £40,000 a year to stay in jail, banning halal meat and slashing alcohol and tobacco duty by 50 per cent. He also called for the BBC to be privatised and proposed merging VAT with income tax.

"Being part of a campaign is not easy, and this one certainly was not all plain sailing," he said. "But I want people to look at me and know exactly what I'm about in terms of policy."

"UKIP has a reputation in some quarters as a non-thinking party. I have opinions and I'll be damned if I ever shy away from putting them across, even if some of the things I say might not be everyone's cup of tea. What you see is what you get, and that is not about to change anytime soon."



Ben Corfield, 13, with his father Damian and Mayor of Dudley Councillor Mohammed Hanif

Proud day after peak performance

A TEENAGER who scaled Ben Nevis to help raise £7,000 for charity was honoured at an assembly held at his school.

Ben Corfield, aged 13, from Sedgley, took part in the group challenge alongside his father, Damien, the Mayor of Dudley Councillor Mohammed Hanif and Ian Austin MP last month.

His efforts were celebrated at High Arcal School, where he was presented with a trophy and certificate.

Proud father Damien said: "The assembly was a big surprise to him. The Mayor and deputy Mayor of Dudley came along."

"The weather was severe up the climb making it a mammoth task, especially for a 13-year-old lad. I am very proud of Ben."

The trek, organised by Dudley North MP Ian Austin for the third year in a row, raised funds for three charities.

McDonald's gets hi-tech new look

THE McDonald's drive-through restaurant in Upper Gornal is undergoing a refurbishment.

The Kent Road restaurant has been temporarily shut for the investment from franchisee Bob Beckett. It is scheduled to open again for business on October 11.

The changes in the store will focus on providing customers with more choice as to how to order and pay, including new technological features. These will include such innovations as self-order kiosks, free-to-use tablets, plus a new layout.

After re-opening, customers will also have the option to have their food delivered direct to their table.

Mr Beckett said: "I am looking forward to the transformation of McDonald's on Kent Road as it will improve the restaurant experience for customers."

Show home at village site

A BRAND new show home has opened at a housing development in Sedgley.

The house is at the David Wilson Homes Baggeridge Village development, situated on Gospel End Road.

Steve Barton, senior sales manager, said: "The show homes are looking great and truly reflect the quality of life homebuyers would have at Baggeridge Village."

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Prize for pub goal celebration

SEVERAL Black Country pubs are on the hunt for the most over-the-top goal celebration by fans in a national competition.

Greene King brewery is looking for jubilant supporters who rival the footballers on the pitch. With £1,000 up for grabs for the best 'CeleBEERtion,' the Bear Tavern in Smethwick; The Bradmore Arms, Wolverhampton; The Bramford Arms, Dudley; The Keymaster, Willenhall; and The Lutley Oak, Halesowen, are all taking part.

Jimmy Bullard, whose 2009 goal celebration mocking Hull City manager Phil Brown is famous, said: "Whether you pull your shirt over your head like Ravenelli, do the Peter Crouch robot, or your own move, we want to see it." Fans can upload their pub goal celebrations to www.facebook.com/GKSeasonTicket before October 2.

Black Country best compete for Chamber of Commerce awards

MORE than 30 businesses are in the running for the 2016 Black Country Chamber of Commerce Awards.

The 10 category winners and the overall business of the year will be announced at the awards dinner at Wolverhampton Racecourse on November 18.

Adrian Wright, the chamber president, said: "The judging panel was very impressed with the high standard of award entries."

The full list of finalists is: Best new business: Integrity Surveying, OMG! Online Marketing Growth, Soda Blasting and Write Size. Business

services provider of the year: ACUTECH, Discovery ADR Group, Paycare and Thompson AVC. Community champion: Ideal for All, Midlands Air Ambulance Charity, The Haven Wolverhampton and The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust. Excellence in customer service: Avanti Fitted Kitchens, DW Windows, FBC Manby Bowler and STK Fire and Risk Management. Excellence in manufacturing and engineering: A&M EDM, HF Contracts Furniture, JC Payne (UK) and SHS Products. Exporter of the year, Entec International, Gecko Programmes, Simworx and Write Size.

Innovation and technology award: Rozone, Simworx, Thomas Dudley and Top Marques Insurance. Small business of the year: Cre8 Sales Solutions, Discovery ADR Group, Klick Business Solutions and Redbox Signmakers.

Young person or apprentice: Tom Oakley, Express & Star; Sam Shevyn, Phoenix Calibration & Services; Charlotte Humphreys and Katie Griffiths, Recruit Recruit and Jordan Holloway, The Black Country Living Museum Trust.

Outstanding achievement: Braveheart Education, DW Windows, Fizzog Productions and The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust.

Green causes to get bag cash

TESCO customers are being invited to help community groups and good causes in Dudley bag a share of a £12.5 million carrier bag charge fund.

The supermarket has teamed up with Groundwork on its Bags of Help initiative, which sees grants of £12,000, £10,000 and £8,000 – all raised from the 5p bag levy – being awarded to environmental projects.

Shoppers are being invited to head along to Tesco stores to vote for who they believe should take away the top grant. The groups to benefit from the Tesco grant in Dudley are Jasmine Road Community Gardens, Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy and Summit House.

Voting is open in store from September 26 to October 9.

Building up to be the best



Cover star Josh Westwood from Halesowen takes a break from working out

"I PLAN to have one of the greatest natural physiques in the world." This is the ambition of Josh Westwood, a 28-year-old former carpenter from Halesowen.

And so far so good for the fitness model in the making, as he is due to appear on the front cover of the Natural Athlete Magazine.

He got into weight training from the age of 16, but only took the idea of turning professional seriously three years ago, when he decided to improve his nutrition.

He said: "I've been practicing jujutsu for 10 years and I'm currently a brown belt. I decided my nutrition needed to tighten up and my body fat needed to get lower."

"I started going to Haden Hill Leisure Centre and improving my cardio fitness and that's when I realised I was capable of going on stage."

"I attended a fitness model competition by Fit Factor at the NEC in Birmingham for the BodyPower Expo in May 2015, but the guy running it told me I needed to have a lower body fat percentage."

"So that's what I worked on. I put my heart and soul into training and in May this year I got into the final of the same competition."

On the way out, Josh passed a stall offering athletes the chance to get on the front of their magazine and after a successful social media competition, he is now due to appear on the cover of the new magazine.

But that's not all for Josh, he is participating in UK BFF Midlands Championship competition at Birmingham Town Hall and working out two hours a day on a strict low carbohydrate diet. "I do miss the fast food, white bread and crumpets," he admitted.

Concerts and rents see revenue up at the NEC

BOSSES at the NEC have hailed the company's financial figures since it was bought from the city council by part of Lloyds Bank as revenue and profits are both up in the figures for the year to the end of March.

The figures include the first set of rents from Resorts World Birmingham – owned by Genting – and the new Vox conference centre.

The NEC attracted a string of major events including Crufts dog show, and the Horse of the Year show.

At the same time its concert venues, the Genting and Barclaycard arenas, saw shows by stars including Paul McCartney, One Direction, Madonna, Strictly Come Dancing and the return of The Corrs.

The NEC, which attracts around seven million visitors a year and first opened 40 years ago, was bought by LDC, the private equity arm of Lloyds Banking Group, in a £307 million deal in January 2015.

Manager up for award

FIVE award-winning Taylor Wimpey Midlands site managers are hoping for even greater success at a finals ceremony this autumn.

The five – including Gareth Woodhouse who is site manager at Woodall Grange in Dudley – will be attending the NHBC (National House-Building Council) Pride in the Job regional awards ceremony at the ICC Birmingham on October 7.

They were all awarded NHBC Quality Awards earlier this year.

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Royal recognition for service to community

RESIDENTS from across the Black Country have been awarded British Empire Medals for their services to the community.

A total of eight people were awarded the prestigious medals, also known as the BEM, including three from Dudley.

They were all given their medals by the Vice Lord-Lieutenant of West Midlands, Colonel George Marsh TD, at a special ceremony at Birmingham's Council House in the city centre.

One of those receiving applause was 83-year-old Jean Fletcher from Priory Court, Dudley, Mrs Fletcher currently volunteers one day a week at Mary Stevens Hospice, after working as a nurse until she was 76.

After receiving her BEM for community service, Mrs Fletcher said: "I am very happy to receive the award. I volunteer once a week or when they need me, which I enjoy."

Health

Another Dudley resident to receive the silver medal was Lynne Jankowska, from Wordsley.

The 64-year-old was awarded hers for services to health, being one of Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership Trusts' longest serving experts.

In her role she has helped to make improvements to the design and delivery of the trust's services.

She said: "I am delighted with the award, it was such a jolly occasion and everybody obviously had been working very hard."

"I never thought I would get a medal for my work. I was amazed really."

The final Dudley resident to receive their award was athlete Shahzada Saleem. Mr Saleem, from Ploverdale Crescent, Kingswinford, is a former stone-lifting champion who also goes by the title King Shazad.

A champion stone lifer from 1985 to 1996, the 51-year-old set up the Shazad Academy after he retired from the sport.

The academy has helped young and



British Empire Medal recipient Jean Fletcher of Dudley with Vice Lord-Lieutenant, Colonel George Marsh TD and Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Mohamed Hanif, and Mayoress Zabeda Khanam



Shahzada Saleem receives his medal

disadvantaged residents turn their lives around.

In 2001 he set up the self-funding Kashmir Youth forum. The voluntary organisation has made a 'significant contribution to community cohesion'.

He said: "Getting a medal from her majesty - you cannot ask for anything



Lynne Jankowska with Colonel Marsh

more. I achieved so many medals in my life, gold medals, trophies, everything, but this is one of the best.

"My legacy is complete now, I trained hard all my life for this. I am so happy about this, all my family and friends are excited and happy as well."

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Boss in airship mission after battle with cancer



The Straightline Aviation and RAD-AID airship that can help ill and injured people in hard to reach places around the globe

A PERSONAL battle with cancer lies behind the plans of an airship business based near Stourbridge to aid an international medical charity.

Straightline Aviation, at Halfpenny Green Airport, near Bobbington, is preparing to run a fleet of next-generation hybrid airships providing cheap transport to hard to reach places.

The very first airship off the production line will be provided for American charity RAD-AID, helping to transport X-ray machines, medical scanners and doctors to people who would normally be beyond the reach of modern facilities.

Isolated communities from Africa to Alaska and those hit by natural disasters that make roads impassable could

benefit from the medical airship programme.

The technology will help diagnose injuries and diseases like cancer. That strikes a personal note with Straightline boss Mike Kendrick, who is recovering after a two-year struggle against cancers detected by medical scanning technology. He wants other cancer victims to have the same opportunity.

"My life has been saved recently by the early detection and treatment of two separate cancers," said Mr Kendrick, aged 70. "Most of the world's cancer victims do not have the benefit of these essential services. While these hybrids can do a lot of amazing things, there is nothing quite as satisfying as seeing their capabilities applied to this kind of humanitarian use."



Airship boss Mike Kendrick

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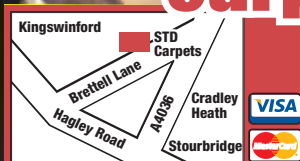
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FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL



The Birmingham canal side of the old Springfield Brewery off Cannock Road



A beer mat promoting Butler's



Work on the West Midlands Construction University Technical College



A wreath is laid at Springfield as the site closes in 1991



Artist's impression of the £100 million project

Iconic brewery site will spring back into use

IT IS 25 years since the historic gates swung shut for the last time on Wolverhampton's oldest brewery but memories of a tasty 'pint of Spring' linger on.

Springfield Brewery produced 1,500 barrels of beer a week and employed 900 people at the height of its production.

The water needed to supply the business came from a natural spring under the site – hence the name – and helped to give the ale its distinct flavour. When it was taken over by Mitchell & Butler, discerning drinkers claimed they could tell if their pint had been brewed in Wolverhampton or at the company's Cape Hill plant.

Opening in 1874 under the William Butler and Company name, 'The Spring' grew to be one of the largest breweries in the Midlands.

Butler, a shingler who worked at the Thorneycroft Ironworks, began by supplying his workmates with his

MEMORY LANE

By Marion Brennan

home-made brew. He founded the company in 1840 and ran from a small site in John Street, Priestfield village, delivering beer to pubs by handcart.

He moved to Springfield when the water supply at Priestfield began to run out. As well as the spring, called the Cul Well, which fed Smestow Brook, there was also a high water table, and two nearby railway lines and the Birmingham Canal, both of which were used for transport.

Initially it produced 400 barrels of beer a week, expanding between 1881 and 1883 when the iconic brewing tower was built and production increased to 1,500 barrels a week. The company continued to grow after the death of its founder, buying up pubs and taking over other breweries.

In 1960, it was itself bought out by Mitchell & Butler. Production of Springfield Bitter continued on the

site until 1991. In the intervening quarter of a century, it was initially used by M&B as a distribution centre but then fell derelict. A major fire in 2004 destroyed the original brewing equipment and many of the buildings.

Around five years ago brewing briefly returned to the site when Wolverhampton couple Andy and Michelle Brough leased part of it to supply the Hogshead in Stafford Street, and Wolverhampton Rugby Club at Castlecroft with their pale ale and bitter.

Now in one corner of the site, a new building is fast emerging. The West Midlands Construction University Technical College will be open in November. By 2020, hundreds of students from three different learning institutes will mingle together in this shared space on their way to classes and workshops.

The School of Architecture and the Built Environment will be based in the former brewery itself. Around 50 per cent of the late Victorian structure will be preserved with the other half an eye-catching new build.



University of Wolverhampton Vice Chancellor Professor Geoff Layer as the new development takes shape

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Funding hitch for busy roundabout

A MULTI-MILLION pound scheme to tackle congestion at a notorious roundabout has suffered a major blow after it was revealed there is uncertainty over funding.

The Birchley Island in Oldbury would be spilt in two to allow traffic to run through the centre of it, under plans by Sandwell Council to solve the congestion nightmare regularly experienced at the roundabout.

But the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) – a crucial funding source for the scheme – said it does not know when cash from its Local Growth Fund will be available.

Spokeswoman Jaswinder Jandu said: “We will be supporting Sandwell Council in developing this priority project over the next four years. Sandwell Council is continuing to work up the full cost of the scheme and develop the full business case.”

The LEP said it was still committed to the project, although it does not feature in its spending projections for five years.

Canal and tunnel trust in tourism awards triumph

DUDLEY Canal and Tunnel Trust are celebrating award-winning success.

They beat competition from around the country to take home Canal and River Trust’s Living Waterways Award in the Recreation and Tourism category.

The trust collected the award at the Canal and River Trust awards evening at Birmingham Town Hall.

“We are delighted to have won the award,” said Nick Morris, chief executive of Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust.

“It is a real testament to the tremendous amount of hard work by Dudley Canal Trust staff and volunteers to provide access to this remarkable historic site.”

Dudley Canal Tunnel Trust has championed the restoration, maintenance and enjoyment of the spectacular underground labyrinth of limestone mines and canal tunnels under Dudley for 55 years.

It’s new £3.7million Portal Visitor Centre, on Birmingham New Road, with interactive exhibition gallery, learning space, Gongoozler restaurant and function room, shop and trip boat base, opened in October 2015.

“Over the past 50 years the trust

has operated from temporary buildings adjacent to the canal and tunnel entrances, but has long worked towards creating a centre to enhance the wonders of the caverns,” said Mr Morris.

Our fantastic new Portal Visitor Centre has already doubled the numbers of visitors to the site since it opened just under a year ago.”

Christopher Rodrigues CBC, chairman of the Living Waterways Awards Assessment Panel, praised the new facilities. He said: “The trust certainly deserves to be recognised for their remarkable work to promote and celebrate this important waterways site.”

The Portal centre in Dudley



Region’s business confidence slump

BUSINESS confidence in the West Midlands has fallen with economic uncertainty and weaker UK demand being seen as the biggest threats to businesses’ fortunes, according to the latest Business in Britain report from Lloyds Bank.

The report, in its 24th year, surveyed the views of more than 1,500 UK companies, predominantly small to medium sized businesses, and tracks the overall ‘balance’ of opinion on a range of important performance and confidence measures, weighing up the percentage of firms that are positive in outlook against those that are negative.

Its confidence index – an average of respondents’ expected sales, orders and profits over the next six months – has declined by 26 points to 13 per cent in the West Midlands since the previous survey in January.

Book tribute to Black Country comedy king



Angela Daniels with The Tommy Mundon Story

THERE was plenty of laughter at the launch of a book dedicated to the memory of the Black Country’s King of Comedy, Tommy Mundon.

The Halesowen-born comedian’s ability to ‘spread a little happiness’, was clear from the many jokes and amusing anecdotes fondly re-told by his friends, including by Angela Daniels, the writer of his new biography The Tommy Mundon story.

Addressing a packed room during the book launch at the Dudley Canal Trust on Friday, Angela said: “I wanted to use as much of Tommy’s own words as possible. I hope that in your mind’s ear you will hear Tommy telling the jokes.”

The book aims to help continue the legacy of the comic who died in 2014 after a battle with Parkinson’s disease. The author knew Tommy for more than four decades, and explained that she had been able to gather a wealth of information from around 100 contributors.

The book’s printing costs have been donated by Morgan and Company Solicitors and the Black Country Society, enabling profits to be donated to Mary Stevens Hospice.

Fire service ready for flood of applications

SIXTY firefighters are being recruited by West Midlands Fire Service with bosses braced for an avalanche of applications.

More than 3,600 people applied for 50 firefighter jobs when the service last recruited in January 2015. But this time round, the jobs will be given only to candidates living in the West Midlands. In previous recruitment drives, applications have come from across the globe.

Fire service jobs in the UK have long been hotly contested. A service boss revealed that CVs have been received this week alone from Romania and Afghanistan but would not be considered.

The jobs are largely replacements for firefighters who have recently retired or are coming up to retirement age.

Before last year’s recruitment drive, the service had lost 275 firefighters in the previous four years as a result of £22 million cuts in Government funding.



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Flags fly for pomp and circumstance at event



Enjoying the proceedings at Haden Hill House Museum and Park, is Hope Smith, aged 14, of Cradley Heath

It was a sea of red, white and blue as flag-waving music lovers flocked to a Proms in the Park event.

Hundreds packed into Haden Hill House Museum and Park in Cradley Heath to hear a feast of live music ranging from jazz to Halesowen Brass Band.

Visitors were able to enjoy a picnic and many got into the Proms spirit by waving Union flags.

Alison Hyatt, visitor services manager at the museum, said: "We have

had an amazing turnout and response. This is the fourth year we have run this event, supported by the friends group who do some great work."

As well as visiting Haden Hill House Museum and Park, people were able to get a rare glimpse inside Haden Old Hall. The hall, which was built around the late-1600s but has parts dating back to the Tudor period, is attached to the house and museum but is seldom open to the public.

The event took place at the weekend as part of Heritage Open Days and as part of Heritage Lottery Funded project 'Best's Angels'.



People listening to Proms in the Park

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Poirot set to stir up a crime mystery



Tony Stamp as Poirot with Kevin W Stanley as Hastings and Sophie Waterfield as Barbara in the whodunnit Black Coffee

MURDER and mystery will descend on the Black Country as an Agatha Christie classic is performed by a Dudley theatre group this week.

Dudley Little Theatre's production of Black Coffee, featuring the famous Belgian sleuth Hercule Poirot and his faithful sidekick Hastings, will be taking place nightly at Netherton Arts Centre until Saturday.

Black Coffee was the first mystery that Christie wrote for the stage and

it was first performed in 1930. Audiences will need to be prepared exercise 'the little grey cells' as the whodunnit takes some unexpected turns.

Rebecca Cleo, chairwoman of the group who also stars in the play, said: "People will be left guessing right up until the end on who done it."

Formula

Black Coffee tells the tale of a guest at a country house who is believed to be the thief of a secret formula and then matters take a lethal turn.

Mrs Cleo said: "Rehearsals have been ongoing since June. This will be the third Agatha Christie we have

done as group in 20 years, so it's special to us."

The group were originally formed in 1947 and have since gone on to produce four plays per season at Netherton Arts Theatre.

The Hercule Poirot Tea Parlour within the Emporium at Brierley Hill was used for the casting call photo-shoot.

Tickets are £8 with concessions £7. They can be bought via www.dudleylittletheatre.org website.

Or tickets can be ordered by phone from Chris on 01384 872583 or 07582 318017 or from Rebecca on 01902 566077 or 07954 424555.



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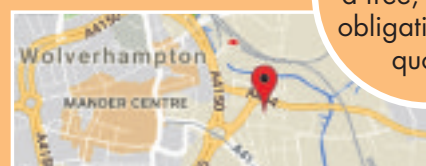
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The top three groups collecting the most will receive an additional cash bonus of £1,000 with the remaining £32,000 divided proportionately between all the groups who qualify for a share.

HomeServe Membership CEO Martin Bennett said: "As passionate supporters of our local community for more than 20 years, we are proud to once again work in partnership with the Express & Star on Cash For Your Community."

Enthusiastic

"It is fantastic to see the recipients of the funding bringing to life their projects which are directly benefitting their communities. The HomeServe People are always enthusiastic about helping their communities and jump at the chance to get involved, whether volunteering to help local causes or fundraising for charity so I have no doubt that they will fully get behind this initiative again."

We have included a bonus token below for you to cut out and pass on. A list of groups, along with their addresses can be found at expressandstar.com/cfyc. Please do not send your tokens to the Express & Star they must be sent direct to your chosen cause.

And you can help them even more by collecting the tokens which will be printed each day in the Express & Star until Saturday, October 22. The top groups will be invited to a prize giving ceremony at Walsall FC in December.

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Songwriters showcased at the double

Dan Whitehouse, Boo Hewerdine
Henry Tudor House, Shrewsbury
WOLVERHAMPTON singer-songwriter Dan Whitehouse is currently on tour with his Reveal Records label mate and songwriting hero Boo Hewerdine, adding up to a formidable double bill of talented musicianship.

First up at the delightful small venue, on the third floor of a medieval pub, Whitehouse arrived with a fine new album to promote, *That's Where I Belong*.

Stripped down to voice and electric guitar, the album's songs lost no im-

port. In fact, they became even more intense given the singer-songwriter's emotive, whole-hearted delivery, particularly *That's Where I Belong*, *You Brought The Sunshine* and, one of his earlier songs, *Why Don't We Dance*.

He was back on stage as Hewerdine's co-guitarist on several songs including the rocking *Sweet Honey In The Rock* and *Muddy Water*.

Former front man of 80s band *The Bible*, Hewerdine can be described as the songwriter's songwriter, spanning genres from pop to folk and back again.

He is also a genial, witty performer whose impressive set included his 'one hit' *Patience of Angels* (it was covered by Eddi Reader) and the freewheeling *Harvest Gypsies*.

He also showcased *Cinderella*, a song from a musical he is developing with Squeeze's Chris Difford, and a tribute to David Bowie, entitled *Swimming In Mercury*, from a new album due next year.

Catch them if you can at The Kitchen Garden Cafe in Kings Heath on Wednesday, October 5.

Leon Burakowski

Tuffers now spinner of good tales

An Evening with Aggers and Tuffers, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

"TUFFERS, lend us your brain, I want to build an idiot." The words of Australian wicketkeeper Ian Healy in the best 'sledging' Phil Tufnell had been on the receiving end of, he says.

Of course, it's easy to forget he was once a cricketer. The 2003 *King of the Jungle* has also had stints on *The Jump* and *Strictly* and is a captain on *A Question of Sport*. All these formed the basis of this stage show with Test Match Special colleague Jonathan Agnew.

A decent spinner, Tuffers can spin a yarn, too. He was on good form with humorous anecdotes of his time *Down Under*, both as a sportsman, and on *I'm A Celebrity*. Video highlights included a clip from *Strictly* to which he still remembered the moves five years on.

Questions were asked by the audience, while Aggers was the perfect foil with stories from his own career as a player and a broadcaster.

Mark Shipp

REVIEWS



The cast of *The Importance of Being Earnest* at Birmingham Rep, with Cathy Tyson far left

Wilde comedy is crisp, witty and delivered at a cracking pace

The Importance of Being Earnest
Birmingham Repertory Theatre

OSCAR Wilde pokes fun at the church, the family and marriage as well as the idleness of the upper class in Victorian England in this comic play.

Director Nikolai Foster uses a disconcerting mirrored set designed to give a contemporary context but sometimes is just a distraction. The costumes are eye-catching but there are some strange anomalies, such as a dress cropped above the knees in a

most un-Victorian way. The casting is superb. The script, full of well-known quotes, is delivered crisply and at a cracking pace.

Cathy Tyson gives a superb performance as Lady Bracknell. It's a naughty and imperious portrayal avoiding the stereotype Edith Evans delivery of that famous 'handbag' line. Edward Franklin, as Algernon, and Fela Lufadeju, as John, succeed in their attempts to be Earnest. The play continues at Birmingham Rep until Saturday.

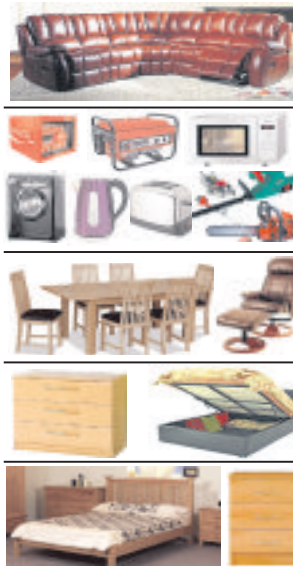
Jerald Smith

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Remi Harris in Concert
Tomorrow,
The Market Theatre, Ledbury,
HR8 2AQ.
Call 07967-517125

One Night of Queen
Tomorrow, £17 - £20
Oakengates Theatre, Telford,
TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

A Foreigners Journey
Sun, £10 - £12
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Toseland
Wed, £8
The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1DR.
Call 01782 214991
and
Thu,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

FESTIVALS

Free Reign – folk rock festival
Sun, £5 - £6
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

COUNTRY, FOLK & ACOUSTIC

The Gloaming
Sun, £22.50
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

The Acoustic Sessions
Tue,
The Jam House, Birmingham,
B3 1QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

CLASSICAL

G4 Back For Good Tour
Tue,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

COMEDY

The Importance
Of Being Earnest
Tonight - tomorrow,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Josh Widdicombe:
What Do I Do Now...
Tonight,
Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB.
Call 01684 892277

Barnstormers Comedy
September 2016
Tomorrow, £14
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Jeremy Hardy
Tomorrow, £15.50
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Nina Conti: In Your Face
Sun,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 42 92 12

Dead Sheep
Mon - Thu,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Pete Firman: TriX
Wed,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT. Call 01743 281281

King Kong Comedy Club
Thu,
Gunmakers Arms pub,
Birmingham, B4 6HG.
Call 0121 236 8486

WiFi Wars
Thu, £10 - £15
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Puppetry of the Penis
– The Vegas Show
Thu,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT. Call 01743 281281

THEATRE

Ghost
Tonight - tomorrow,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Vesta by Chris Jaeger
Tonight,
Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB.
Call 01684 892277

Justin LIVE!
Sun,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE. Call 01902 42 92 12

That'll Be The Day
Wed, £20.50 - £24.50
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

The Tempest
Mon, £10 - £14
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Jane McDonald
Tomorrow,
Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

Let's Hang On
Tomorrow, £15 - £18.50
Oakengates Theatre, Telford,
TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

Sing-a-Long-a Grease
Sun,
Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 3AD. Call 0844 871 7649

CATS
Mon - Thu,
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1AP. Call 0844 871 7649

Ministry of Science LIVE
Mon, £11 - £14.50
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT. Call 01743 281281

Norma
Mon, £8 - £17
Ludlow Assembly Rooms,
SY8 1AZ. Call 01584 878141

Open Door: Disorder
Mon,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Little Shop of Horrors
Tue - Thu,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

ARTS & CULTURE

Caroline Jariwala – Mosaics
Today - Thu,
Winterbourne House and Garden,
University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston, B15 2RT.
Call 0121 414 3003

The Art Of Slowing Down
Today,
Creative Coffee Hub,
Birmingham, B29 6HJ.
Call 01215 727300

The Birmingham Whisky Club
Presents: Craig's List – 'Fine & Rare'
Today,
The Wellington, Birmingham,
B2 5SN.
Call 0121 200 3115

Neon Night Run –
Mary Stevens Hospice
Tonight,
Himley Hall and Park, Dudley,
DY3 4DF.
Call 01902 895207

Kadamb Dance
Company: Bahukon
Today,
MAC, Cannon Hill Park,
Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Desperado
Tonight - tomorrow, £17
Theatre on the Steps, Bridgnorth,
WV16 4BD.
Call 01746 766477

Alvin Ailey
American Dance Theatre
Today - tomorrow,
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

Sara Barker
Today - Thu,
Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace,
Birmingham, B1 2HS.
Call 0121 248 0708

Žilvinas Kempinas
Today - Thu,
Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace,
Birmingham, B1 2HS.
Call 0121 248 0708

Information Lecture: Help and
Healing on the Spiritual Path
through the teaching of Bruno
Groening
Tomorrow, Free
The Polish Millenium Centre,
See <http://www.bruno-groening.org/english/>

MISC. EVENTS

All The Worlds A Stage Arts
Festival
Tonight,
Victoria Hall,
Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

Sutton Record Fair
Tomorrow,
The Carpenter's Arms
Community Centre,
Sutton Coldfield,
B73 5UY.
Call 01213212285

Bridge Club
Mon,
Areley Kings Village Hall,
Areley Common,
Stourport-on-Severn,
DY13 0NB.
Call 07939 318973

Ladies Beginner's Bhangra
Bollywood/Giddha Dance
Classes
Mon, £4.50
North Birmingham Academy,
B44 0HF.
Call 0121 373 1647

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Rhydian on stage is still X-tra special

CLASSICAL crossover star and former X Factor finalist Rhydian will play sadistic dentist Orin Scrivello in Little Shop of Horrors at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre next week after a run this week, to Saturday, at Lichfield Garrick.

Welsh baritone Rhydian (Roberts), a former Birmingham Conservatoire student, was runner-up to Leon Jackson in the 2007 series of The X Factor.

But Rhydian was the real winner, going on to sell more than a million albums worldwide, release six albums in total and performing with some of the biggest names in the music industry. He also carved himself a career in hit musicals. His many musical theatre credits include Grease, We Will Rock You, The War Of The Worlds, Jesus Christ Superstar and the 40th anniversary tour of The Rocky Horror Show. He was a Classical Brit Award nominee.

Platinum

With his distinctive platinum hair, pale complexion, chiselled features and ripped body, he looks like a Bond movie villain, all bulging biceps, rippling abs and a washboard stomach.

He wants to make music that people remember and star in shows that send the punters home happy and be recognised for his work, rather than X Factor associations.

"I make no bones about it, X Factor was very important to me. I wouldn't be a star of the show, in inverted commas, if I hadn't been on that and wasn't recognisable," he said.

"It has fast-tracked my career. But I would have done these things anyway, with or without X Factor. Per-



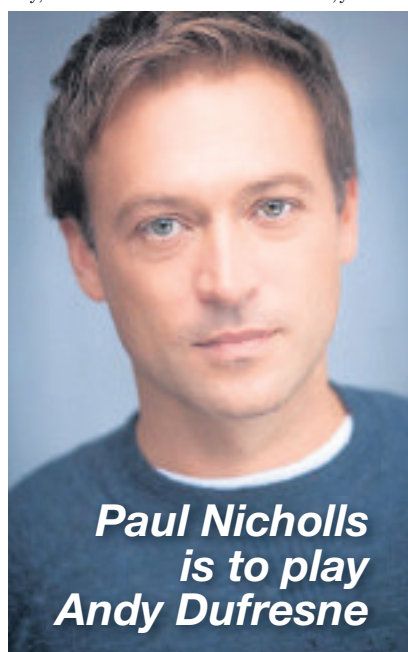
Former Birmingham music student Rhydian as the dentist in Little Shop of Horrors

forming is my vocation. I had to have a certain quality to get through the rounds. X Factor isn't easy, let me tell you. You have to toe the party line and sell your soul to the devil a little bit. I knew what I was getting into.

"But even if X Factor opens the door, you have to turn it in night after

night to get hired. I wouldn't get the gigs if I didn't turn it in."

See Rhydian's wicked Skid Row dentist as he takes on nerdy Seymour the florist's man-eating plant in comedy-musical Little Shop of Horrors at the New Alexandra from Tuesday to Saturday (www.atgtickets.com).



Paul Nicholls is to play Andy Dufresne

Shaw-fire play success

EASTENDERS heart-throb Paul Nicholls, best known for playing Joe Wicks, will have a starring role when The Shawshank Redemption arrives at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre next week.

The production is adapted from Stephen King's novella Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption, which was made into the 1994 film, The Shawshank Redemption.

The movie, which has been voted as the nation's favourite film, starred Tim Robbins as Andy Dufresne and Morgan Freeman as Ellis 'Red' Redding and was nominated for seven Academy Awards including Best Picture, Best Adapted Screenplay and Best Actor for Freeman.

Paul Nicholls will play Dufresne in the stage version. His other TV credits include Grantchester, Law & Order: UK and The C Word.

He is also an accomplished stage actor who made his West End debut in Long Day's Journey Into Night and has acted at several leading playhouses in London.

Ben Onwukwe, who takes on the role of Red, boasts a 30-year stage career. His most prominent TV role was as Stuart 'Recall' McKenzie in London's Burning, a character he played for over a decade.

Keeping them in line, Jack Ellis will play the part of Warden Stamas. He is best known for his role as prison warden Jim Fenner in the ITV television series Bad Girls, in which he appeared for seven series.

The Shawshank Redemption will be at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday. Call the box office on 01902 429212.

Showcases for the songwriters

IT'S a great week for catching some fine singer-songwriters in action, including Beth Orton at the O2 Institute 2 in Digbeth on Wednesday. That's the same night quirky Welsh maverick Meilyr Jones is at The Rain-bow's Courtyard venue nearby.

Fuzzy California slacker pop comes from Colleen Green and Cassie Ramone at the Hare & Hounds in Kings Heath on Sunday, when nearby at the Kitchen Garden Cafe the enigmatic Jane Siberry will perform. Stay With Me Til Dawn singer Judy Tzuke is at the Robin 2 on Wednesday and the Bilston venue has a tribute to Carole King and James Taylor on Thursday.

Twist and crawl with English Beat

LACE up your boots and rev up the scooter, there's a feast of ska on the way. The English Beat, featuring Brummie singer-guitarist Dave Wakeling, will be reviving hits such as Mirror In The Bathroom, Twist And Crawl and Tears Of A Clown, at Bilston's Robin 2 tomorrow night (Friday). But it clashes with London ska-punk outfit Popes of Chilltown at Wolverhampton venue The Slade Rooms, also tomorrow night.

There will be more ska at the Robin the following Friday with eight-piece band The Superskas. But if you fancy some classic rock, The Counterfeit Stones play the Robin this Saturday.

Chart-toppers in sold out Brum gig

GIG of the week is at the O2 Institute in Birmingham tomorrow night (Friday) where Stockport band Blossoms, who went to no1 with their self-titled debut album, have sold out.

Other highlights include Rat Boy at the same Digbeth venue on Saturday, also the night that Merseysider Natalie McCool, whose indie-pop album The Great Unknown is out now, plays The Sunflower Lounge in Birmingham.

Danish band Yung are at the Hare & Hounds in Kings Heath on Tuesday and up-and-coming girl band The Tuts play the same pub venue on Wednesday.

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Quote: JGRT

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Sat 26 to Mon 28 Nov

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- ✓ 2 nights dinner, bed & breakfast at a selected hotel, Bournemouth
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CHOICE



Dr Tori Herridge

Walking Through Time (Channel 4, 8pm)
New series. Palaeobiologist Dr Tori Herridge follows up her documentary on the mega-flood that separated Britain from continental Europe with three more investigations, all of which explore some of the prehistoric forces that shaped the national landscape. She begins by visiting north-west Scotland, where the craggy coastline indicates an asteroid landed 1.2 billion years ago. Dr Mike Simms of Ulster Museum joins Tori as she searches for the impact crater, which would be the first of its kind discovered in mainland Britain.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Live PDC Darts Champions League. Coverage of four group-stage matches. **4.30** Final Score. **5.20** BBC News. **5.30** Regional Programme. **5.40** Pointless Celebrities. **6.30** **Strictly Come Dancing.** Tess Daly and Claudia Winkelman present the second part of the pro-celebrity dance contest's opening weekend. On Friday night, the first six couples made their dance floor debuts, and tonight, the remaining nine pairs are given a chance to show off their burgeoning talents. As ever, judges Len Goodman, Borey Bussell, Bruno Tonioli and Craig Revel Horwood are on hand to deliver their verdict on each step, kick, dip and pirouette, but at this early stage in the contest, none of the stars need worry about elimination. The scores allocated this weekend are carried over to next week's show, when voting lines open, and viewers at home get their say. **8.00** **The National Lottery: Five Star Family Reunion.** A UK family and their long-lost overseas relatives must work together in order to win a once-in-a-lifetime reunion in a five-star location. The overseas family must answer questions to win time for their relatives in the UK studio, who will then individually answer questions against the clock. Nick Knowles hosts. Plus, Gabby Roslin introduces the all-important weekend Lotto and Thunderball draws, as Petula Clark performs live in the studio, and does the honours of pushing the Lotto button. **8.50** **Casualty.** Charlie gets into a scrap with an old schoolyard bully when attending a 50-year-school reunion, and David's troubled son acts out as he and ex-wife Rosa have a very public row. **9.40** **Mrs Brown's Boys.** Agnes tries to persuade the health visitor Gradad is in need of respite care – so she can go on holiday – and receives ominous news from beyond the grave from her late husband. (R) **10.10** BBC News: Weather. **10.30** **Match of the Day:** National Lottery Update. **12.00** The NFL Show. **12.30** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.10 **Film:** Short Circuit. (1986) Sci-fi comedy adventure, starring Steve Guttenberg. **7.40** **Film:** Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas. (2003) Animated adventure, with the voice of Brad Pitt. **9.00** Lost Land of the Volcano. (R) **10.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **11.00** BBC News Special. **12.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.30** Great British Menu. **2.00** Great British Menu. **2.30** Great British Menu. **3.00** The Hairy Bikers' Chicken and Egg. (R) **4.00** The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice. (R) **4.30** Live PDC Darts Champions League. Further coverage of the afternoon session of group-stage matches. **5.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **6.00** **Dad's Army.** Captain Mainwaring is alarmed to discover the extent of Corporal Jones's cash-flow crisis and takes drastic measures to help the butcher get back on his feet. Classic comedy first shown in 1975, starring Arthur Lowe and Clive Dunn. (R) **6.30** **Live PDC Darts Champions League.** Coverage of four further group-stage matches from Motorpoint Arena in Cardiff, as the inaugural staging of the competition featuring the world's top eight players gets under way. Michael van Gerwen, Gary Anderson and Phil Taylor are among those scheduled to participate, and all eight players will be in action once again during this session. Presented by Jason Mohammad, with commentary by Vassos Alexander and Dan Dawson, analysis from Paul Nicholson, Sam Webster and Alan Warriner-Little, and reports by Caroline Barker. **10.30** **Elton John Live at Hyde Park.** The singer performs a concert to a crowd of 50,000 fans for Radio 2's Festival in a Day event, featuring old favourites and songs from his recent album Wonderful Crazy Night. (R) **11.30** **Film:** Telstar: The Joe Meek Story. (2008) Biopic charting the career of the influential 1960s record producer, who was ultimately brought down by depression and paranoia. With Con O'Neill, Kevin Spacey and Pam Ferris. **1.25** **Film:** Leaving. (2009) A woman in a loveless marriage decides to abandon her husband and teenage children in pursuit of a purely sexual relationship. Drama, with Kristin Scott Thomas. **2.45** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Sooty. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.20** Oddbods. (R) **7.25** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.30** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Looped. **8.30** Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Do! **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** **Film:** Columbo: Fade in to Murder. (1976) **12.50** ITV News: Weather. **12.55** Tipping Point. (R) **1.55** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **2.40** Pick Me! (R) **3.40** The X Factor. (R) **5.10** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **6.05** **Regional Programme:** Weather. **6.15** **ITV News:** Weather. **6.30** **You've Been Framed!** Exploding toilets, airborne chainsaws, a cat with a talent for playing the drums and an embarrassing situation for Darth Vader are among the comedy clips submitted by fans. (R) **7.00** **Go for It.** Members of the public are given a chance to demonstrate their most unusual skills in unique challenges, with successful contestants claiming a £1,000 prize. **8.00** **The X Factor.** Judges Simon Cowell, Sharon Osbourne, Louis Walsh and Nicole Scherzinger face some difficult decisions this week, as the first of two Six Chair Challenges arrives. The current batch of contestants are asked to perform in front of live audiences for the first time, before each member of the panel must make a snap decision over which six acts they would like to take through to the Judges Houses stage of the competition. However, the pressure isn't only on the judges during this round, as Simon, Nicole, Louis and Sharon retain the right to replace anyone they've previously given a chair, should a rival contestant out-perform their previously chosen proteges. **9.30** **Newzoids.** Satirical sketch show blending traditional puppetry and animation. **10.00** **The Jonathan Ross Show.** **11.05** **ITV News:** Weather. **11.20** **Film:** Beowulf. (2007) **1.10** Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **4.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Gillette World Sport. **6.40** Motor Sport: GT Academy. **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Simpsons. (R) **11.30** The Simpsons. (R) **12.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.00** Gok's Fill Your House for Free. **2.00** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage of races at Newmarket and Market Rasen. **4.30** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. **5.35** Ugly House to Lovely House with George Clarke. (R) **6.30** **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **Grand Designs.** Kevin McCloud follows plumber Jon Martin and ceramicist Noreen Jaafar as they transform a neglected half-acre site in Gloucestershire. However, they are unable to cut down the 27 protected trees on the plot, so their solution is to build a big, modern treehouse with stilts screwed into the earth and balconies that will have views for miles. (R) **8.00** **Walking Through Time.** New series. Palaeobiologist Dr Tori Herridge follows up her documentary on the mega-flood that separated Britain from continental Europe with three more investigations, all of which explore some of the prehistoric forces that shaped the national landscape. She begins by visiting north-west Scotland, where the craggy coastline indicates an asteroid landed 1.2 billion years ago. Dr Mike Simms of Ulster Museum joins Tori as she searches for the impact crater, which would be the first of its kind discovered in mainland Britain. **9.00** **8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** New series. Jimmy Carr hosts the hybrid comedy panel quiz show, as guest team captain David Walliams joins forces with Jonathan Ross, while Jon Richardson teams up with Joe Lycett. **10.00** **Film:** Knight and Day. (2010) A woman gets kidnapped and dragged into a rogue secret agent's mission to clear his name after he is framed as a traitor. Comedy adventure, starring Tom Cruise and Cameron Diaz. **12.10** **Film:** Case 39. (2009) **2.10** Holyoaks. (R) **4.20** Food Unwrapped. (R) **4.50** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.25** The Fairly OddParents. **9.00** The Saturday Show Live. **11.00** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **12.00** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **1.00** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **2.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **3.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **5.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **6.00** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** In Essex, Del and Dael try to collect nearly £3,000 owed by an Indian take-away, but tempers flare when they threaten to seize kitchen equipment. Meanwhile, Paul and Steve evict a tenant who is £14,000 in rent arrears, and in Surrey, Del and Dael chase nearly £4,000 owed by a car dealer to a dissatisfied customer. Finally, in west London, two agents face one of their trickiest evictions to date, with their arrival at a young couple's flat coming as a shock. (R) **7.05** **NCIS: Los Angeles.** The apparent suicide of a scientist serving as an executive naval officer draws Callen and the team into the secretive world of the city's Chinese community. (R) **7.55** **NCIS.** The agents are investigated by the FBI on suspicion of murdering arms dealer La Grenouille, and Jenny Shepard is the prime suspect – until an eyewitness implicates Tony. (R) **8.55** **5 News Weekend.** **9.00** **Football on 5: The Championship.** George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games, including Brighton & Hove Albion v Barnsley, and Aston Villa v Newcastle United. **10.00** **Football on 5: Goal Rush.** George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two. **10.30** **The Cars That Made Britain Great.** Martin Kemp and Jon Culshaw join Rufus Hound to extol the virtues of the Ford Cortina. Nick Baker suggests the Chevette, while Julia Bradbury and Dom Joly love the VW Beetle. (R) **11.30** **Criminals: Caught on Camera.** How CCTV and technological advances are helping to bring criminals to justice. (R) **12.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** BAMMA 26.

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Keith Richards' Lost Weekend **8.00** Johnny Cash: The Man, His World, His Music **8.55** Keith Richards' Lost Weekend **9.15** **Film:** London – The Modern Babylon (2012) **11.20** Keith Richards' Lost Weekend **12.15** **Film:** Bicycle Thieves (1948) **2.05** Keith Richards' Lost Weekend **2.20** **Film:** I Walked with a Zombie (1943) **3.25** Keith Richards' Lost Weekend **3.30** Close **ITV2**
12.40 The Xtra Factor **1.40** Ninja Warrior UK **2.40** You've Been Framed! **Gold 3.15** **Film:** Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **4.15** **FYI Daily 4.20** **Film:** Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **5.00** **Film:** St Trinian's (2007) **6.00** **FYI Daily 6.05** **Film:** St Trinian's (2007) **6.55** **Film:** The Mummy Returns (2001) **7.55** **FYI Daily 8.00** **Film:** The Mummy Returns (2001) **8.30** The Xtra Factor **10.30** Celebrity Juice **11.20** Family Guy **12.40** American Dad! **1.40** The Cleveland Show **2.05** Mom **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** **ITV2** Nightscreen **ITV3**
1.55 Foyle's War **3.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.00** Midsomer Murders **7.55** Doc Martin **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Lewis **1.00** You're Only Young Twice **1.50** **ITV3** Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4**
1.40 British Superbike Championship Highlights **2.40** British Touring Car Championship Highlights **4.10** **Film:** Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol (1987) **5.10** **FYI Daily 5.15** **Film:** Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol (1987) **6.00** Fishing Impossible **7.00** **Film:** Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach (1989) **9.10** **FYI Daily 9.15** **Film:** Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach (1989) **10.00** **Film:** On Deadly Ground (1994) **11.00** **FYI Daily 11.05** **Film:** On Deadly Ground (1994) **12.05** **Film:** The Kingdom (2007) **1.05** **FYI Daily 1.10** **Film:** The Kingdom (2007) **2.15** Hell on Wheels **2.55** **ITV4** Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**
12.30 Melissa & Joey **1.30** Baby Daddy **2.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **3.30** The Goldbergs **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** **Film:** Die Hard (1988) **11.40** **Film:** Under Siege 2: Dark Territory (1995) **1.45** Googlebox **2.45** Empire **Film4**
1.00 Dear John (2010) **3.05** **Spot Kids 4:** All the Time in the World (2011) **4.50** The Addams Family (1991) **6.55** Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters (2013) **9.00** Prometheus (2012)

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CHOICE



Aidan Turner

Poldark (BBC1, 9pm)
Ross makes a deal with a criminal who offers to pay him for using Nampara Cove as a safe haven for smuggling – but Demelza does not approve of his actions. Elizabeth tries to placate George to avoid bankruptcy – but finds the price of keeping him at bay is too high – while Ross comes to blows with him when he makes an unexpected appearance at a shareholders' meeting. Demelza goes into labour under dangerous circumstances. Aidan Turner, Eleanor Tomlinson, Ruby Bentall, Caroline Blakiston, Beatie Edney, Jack Farthing, Luke Norris and Heida Reed star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News. Weather. **1.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **1.45** Eat Well for Less? (R) **2.45** Points of View. **3.00** Ingenious Animals. (R) **4.00** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** Autumn: Earth's Seasonal Secrets. **6.35** BBC News. **6.50** Regional Programme. **7.00** Countryfile. Matt Baker oversees this year's One Man and His Dog at Florence Court, Co Fermanagh, with shepherds from England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland and their faithful canine assistants competing for the trophy in the 40th anniversary contest. Anita Rani explores the history of the estate and meets the families of the competitors. Including weather for the week ahead. **8.00** Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Arley Hall and Gardens in Cheshire, where a time capsule that has been buried for 130 years is opened for the first time on camera. Other finds brought in include a gold bracelet with a tragic past that was found bricked up behind a wall, and a lost work by 18th-century artist Lawrence Alma-Tadema. **9.00** Poldark. Ross makes a deal with a criminal who offers to pay him for using Nampara Cove as a safe haven for smuggling – but Demelza does not approve of his actions. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, focusing on the sole match between West Ham United and Southampton at the Olympic Stadium. **11.15** The Women's Football Show. A look at the biggest issues in the women's game, focusing on matters at both club and international level. **11.45** Film: Winter's Bone. (2010) A teenage girl searches for her estranged father, whose bail-jumping threatens to leave her mother and siblings homeless. Drama, starring Jennifer Lawrence and Isaiah Stone. **1.20** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.25** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **6.30** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **7.15** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.15** Countryfile. (R) **9.15** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.45** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.15** Great British Menu. **11.45** Great British Menu. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Live PDC Darts Champions League. Coverage of four group-stage matches. **5.00** Heir Hunters. (R) **5.45** Flog It! **6.30** Live PDC Darts Champions League. Coverage of the semi-finals and final from Cardiff's Motorpoint Arena, as the players to have progressed through the group stage hope to claim the £100,000 first prize. Presented by Jason Mohammad, with commentary by Vassos Alexander and Dan Dawson, analysis from Paul Nicholson, Mark Webster and Alan Warner-Little, and reports by Caroline Barker. **10.30** Fleabag. Surprises are in store when Fleabag attends her godmother's exhibition of erotic art, forcing her to face up to her actions and reveal what became of Boo. Last in the series. **10.55** Murder in Successville. Sleet recovers in hospital after being shot, and looks back on some of his most memorable cases as he considers whether he wants to quit the police force. Last in the series. **11.25** Jade: Why I Chose Porn. Documentary following a porn star as she attends shoots across Europe, exploring why she chose to abandon a career in the fashion industry after graduating from university. **12.05** Film: Tormented. (2009) A teenager who killed himself rises from the dead to take revenge on the classmates who bullied him into an early grave. Satirical horror, with Tuppence Middleton and Alex Pettyfer. **1.35** Sign Zone: Countryfile. John Craven visits Great Missenden, Roald Dahl's home village, to discover how a love of the great outdoors inspired his writing. Plus, a selection of archive features on artists. (R) **2.30** Holly City. Dom is knocked for six by a shocking discovery about Isaac's relationship with his former mentor, while Jasmine wants Jac to acknowledge her as a sister, but comes unstuck. (R) **3.30** This Is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC Two. **5.45** Rip Off Britain. Consumer affairs show investigating issues around the UK. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Sooty. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.20** Oddbods. (R) **7.25** Scrambled! Scrambled! **7.30** Scrambled! Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled! Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled! Looped. **8.30** Scrambled! Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **9.05** Scrambled! Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Bear Grylls Survival School. **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury. (R) **11.30** Chopping Block. (R) **12.30** ITV News: Weather. **12.35** Judge Rinder. (R) **1.35** River Monsters. (R) **2.05** Victoria. (R) **3.10** The X Factor. (R) **4.40** Doc Martin. (R) **5.35** Regional Programme : Weather. **5.45** ITV News: Weather. **6.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special. Sarah Willingham, Shaun Ryder, Michelle Dewberry and Eddie Edwards work as a team to take on quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize for charity. Presented by Bradley Walsh. **7.00** The X Factor. Dermot O'Leary presents the second installment of the six chair challenge, as the contestants perform for the first time in front of an audience. Nicole Scherzinger, Simon Cowell, Louis Walsh and Sharon Osbourne each have to choose six acts to join them in the judges' houses, bringing them one step closer to the live shows – but the judges are free to change their minds at any point in the programme. **9.00** Victoria. Albert needs a greater role in public affairs, and becomes involved in the anti-slavery movement. Victoria matches wits with the Duke of Sussex to see that her husband is granted more respect, while Skerrett faces a dilemma when she realises that the only person who can save her cousin and child from certain death is the man she trusts the least. **10.05** ITV News: Weather. **10.20** Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with ITV News National Editor Allegra Stratton. (R) **11.20** Premiership Rugby Union. Highlights of the latest top-flight fixtures. **12.15** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.40 Motor Sport: 2016 FIA World Endurance Championship. **7.10** Motor Sport: British Rally Championship. **7.35** Frasier. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **9.00** The Big Bang Theory. **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Film: Jungle 2 Jungle. (1997) Comedy, starring Tim Allen. **2.25** Film: Lilo & Stitch. (2002) Disney animated sci-fi comedy, with the voice of Daveigh Chase. **4.05** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.10** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. **6.10** Channel 4 News. **6.30** Posh Pawn. Lawrence examines a collection of boxing memorabilia, Claudia looks through a selection of designer handbags belonging to a former model on The Price Is Right, and James takes a Ferrari for a spin in Marbella, but finds that the owner wants £100,000 for it. **7.30** Speed with Guy Martin. Guy tries to cross the English channel on a human-powered airship. His transport takes the form of a bicycle held aloft by a helium balloon the size of a bus, with the pedals driving two propellers. He puts the machine to the test in Bedfordshire's historic Cardington Hangars, where some of the world's biggest flying machines were created, and seeks some military advice on surviving crash landings. **9.00** Celebrity Island with Bear Grylls. The castaways have fire and water but after four days of gruelling work, still have not had a proper meal. Mark Jenkins is outraged to discover Dom Joly sleeping while the others are busy hunting. When an accident while fishing leaves Lydia Bright in agony, Mark feels compelled to lead a rebellion against Dom's poor leadership. **10.05** Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R) **11.05** Film: The Hurt Locker. (2008) A US bomb disposal team in Iraq is assigned a new leader whose reckless attitude puts all its members lives at risk. Drama, with Jeremy Renner. **1.30** Obsessive Compulsive Country House Cleaners. (R) **2.25** Grand Designs Australia. **3.20** Embarrassing Bodies Down Under. (R) **4.15** Food Unwrapped. (R) **4.40** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R) **5.00** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.55** 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey. **6.05** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **6.10** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.25** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.50** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.00** Pets. (R) **7.05** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.15** Pip Ahoy! (R) **7.30** Little Princess. (R) **7.45** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.00** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.30** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **8.45** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.55** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.25** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.35** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.45** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.55** The Fairly OddParents. **10.30** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.25** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **12.00** Funnist Falls, Falls & Fops. **12.25** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **1.20** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **2.20** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **3.15** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **4.10** 5 News Weekend. **4.15** Film: The Unionist. (2006) Mystery thriller, starring Edward Norton. **6.25** Penn & Teller: Fool Us in Vegas. The duo challenge their youngest ever contestant to impress them with a sleight-of-hand trick, while Jonathan Ross helps an Indonesian-born magician with her routine. **7.20** TV's 50 Greatest Magic Tricks. TV illusionists have been saving ladies in half, catching bullets between their teeth, reading minds and performing feats of escapology for decades. Channel 5 counts down the best, including the astonishing set-pieces of Penn and Teller, the mind-bending of Derren Brown and the street magic of David Blaine. It features spectacular illusions, such as making the Statue of Liberty disappear, intimate card tricks and the lighter side of the business, thanks to the inclusion of comedy great Tommy Cooper. Paul Daniels and Dynamo also appear in this magic compendium, with contributions from Joe Pasquale, Dick and Dom, and Stephen Mulhern. (R) **10.00** When Magic Goes Horribly Wrong. Illusions that went disastrously wrong, including stories of magicians' brushes with death, as well as mishaps involving Dynamo, Paul Daniels and David Blaine. **12.55** Lip Sync Battle: Vic Reeves v Johnny Vegas. (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Secrets of the SAS: In Their Own Words. (R) **4.00** Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R) **4.50** Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Keith Richards' Lost Weekend **7.40** Film: The Man Who Would Be King (1975) **9.40** Keith Richards' Lost Weekend **9.45** Lords of Little Egypt: Mai Zetterling among the Gypsies **10.15** Keith Richards' Lost Weekend **10.45** Film: Pandemonium (2000) **12.40** Keith Richards' Lost Weekend **1.10** Film: Build My Gallows High (1947) **2.40** Keith Richards' Lost Weekend **2.50** Close **ITV2**
1.30 The Xtra Factor **2.35** The Hot Desk: Little Mix **2.45** Film: The Bachelor (1999) **3.45** FYI Daily **3.50** Film: The Bachelor (1999) **4.45** Film: Nanny McPhee (2005) **5.45** FYI Daily **5.50** Film: Nanny McPhee (2005) **6.45** Film: Kindergarten Cop (1990) **7.45** FYI Daily **7.50** Film: Kindergarten Cop (1990) **9.00** The Xtra Factor Live **10.00** Family Guy **11.55** American Dad! **12.50** The Cleveland Show **1.20** Dating in the Dark **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3**
1.25 Film: Les Misérables (1978) **2.35** FYI Daily **2.40** Film: Les Misérables (1978) **4.00** Film: Carry On Screaming (1966) **5.00** FYI Daily **5.05** Film: Carry On Screaming (1966) **5.55** Murders & Thyme **7.45** FYI Daily **7.50** Film: Be Alright on the Night's Best of the Worst **10.00** A Touch of Frost **12.15** Wire in the Blood **2.05** Wycliffe **3.00** May the Best House Win **4.40** You're Only Young Twice **5.30** ITV3 Nightscreen **ITV4**
1.05 Storage Wars **2.05** Film: All Quiet on the Western Front (1979) **3.20** FYI Daily **3.25** Film: All Quiet on the Western Front (1979) **5.05** Film: The Green Berets (1968) **6.15** FYI Daily **6.20** Film: The Green Berets (1968) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Life Inside Jail: Hell on Earth **10.00** Film: Crank (2006) **11.00** FYI Daily **11.05** Film: Crank (2006) **11.50** Film: Barb Wire (1996) **12.50** FYI Daily **12.55** Film: Barb Wire (1996) **1.55** The Big Fish Off **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **E4**
3.00 The Goldbergs **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **5.55** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **6.15** The Big Bang Theory **7.15** Film: The Karate Kid (2010) **10.00** Tattoo Fixers **11.00** Body Fixers **12.05** Rude Tube **1.05** Containment **2.10** Empire **3.00** Cream Queens **3.45** Hollyoaks **5.45** Film **2.50** The Last Minute (2007) **4.35** Johnny English Reborn (2011) **6.40** Beautiful Creatures (2013) **9.00** Avatar (2009) **12.10** Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (2012) **2.00** A Better Life (2011)

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Abducting Zoe, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A detective tries to help a sixteen-year-old in the search for her kidnapped baby. Crime drama, starring Sammi Hanratty, Alexandra Holden and Andrea Bowen. (2014)

TUESDAY

Kidnapped: Desperate Hours, Channel 5, 3.15pm

An American wife's world is turned upside down when her husband, the son of a Mexican newspaper publisher, is kidnapped. Drama, starring Teri Polo, Esai Morales and Nicholas Gonzalez. (2011)

WEDNESDAY

A Daughter's Nightmare, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A grieving widow finds a shoulder to cry on in the form of a charming male nurse, but when her health subsequently begins to fail, her daughter embarks on a dangerous search for the truth about her illness. Drama, starring Emily Osment, Paul Johansson and Victoria Pratt. (2013)



Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

THURSDAY

The Cheating Pact, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Three high school students convince a shy but intelligent girl to take the college entrance test for them. After she gets a low score on one of the tests, she dies in mysterious circumstances, leaving the trio as suspects in her demise. Daniela Bobadilla, Laura Ashley Samuels and Laura Wiggins star. (2013)

FRIDAY

The Good Witch's Charm, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Newly elected mayor Cassandra Nightingale struggles to balance her political responsibilities with raising a newborn baby. Fifth in the Good Witch family drama series, starring Catherine Bell. (2012)

Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome, ITV, 10.40pm

The warrior pitches up in the city of a cut-throat desert community in search of his stolen vehicle and ends up making a deal with a local dictator to get rid of her rival for power. But when the bargain turns sour, he is cast out into the wilderness – where he becomes the unlikely protector of a tribe of feral youngsters. Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Mel Gibson. (1985)

New series hopes to make a good impression

What do an Eastern European internet bride, a self-obsessed glamour model trying to rid herself of cellulite, a teenage 'special needs' boy who interviews celebrities and Pippa Middleton all have in common?

They are just some of the roles that hugely talented Morgana Robinson has played since her small screen debut nine years ago.

And with that kind of versatility it will come as no surprise that the 34-year-old Australian-born comic has ended up plying her trade in the world of celebrity impressions.

"I'm not very good at being me," she told The Daily Telegraph just before her appearance on The Great Sport Relief Bake Off earlier this year.

"I like to hide behind a character, in a wig or something, and be judged like that instead of as myself."

"I've always been a clown – I love being stupid."

"You can relate to them [impressions] immediately, you don't have to invest any time in the character, and when someone

highlights something about someone that you didn't see, it's a bit of a revelation."

Morgan got her showbiz break back in 2007 playing the aforementioned internet bride in BBC comedy The Green Green Grass.

She then starred in the TV pilot Eight Steps to Enlightenment and a Nervous Breakdown, an improvised mockumentary. Then in 2009 she appeared in another hit BBC comedy My Family, before starring in a running sketch segment (Gilbert's Special Report) in The TNT Show.

In 2010, Channel 4 commissioned The Morgana Show, before another sketch show Very Important People also starring Terry Mynott, in which she impersonated a variety of celebrities, including Frankie Boyle, Danny Dyer, Amy Childs and Adele.

Her performance earned her the Best Comedy Breakthrough Artist award at the 2012 British Comedy Awards.

Earlier this year, Robinson starred as the Duchess of Cambridge in The Windsors, a comedy parody of the

royal family, and tonight, Morgana Robinson's The Agency begins.

It is a brand-new seven-part series in which she plays the entire celebrity roster of leading talent agent Vincent Mann (of Mann Management), with Linda Hargreaves playing off Robinson in various roles.

In a groundbreaking move, Vincent has allowed a documentary crew into his agency, and given them access to the likes of Miranda Hart, Natalie Cassidy, Russell Brand, Joanna Lumley, Gregg Wallace, Mel and Sue, Danny Dyer and Adele.

In this first episode we are introduced to Vincent as he deals with Miranda Hart's burning desire to be taken more seriously as an actor and Danny Dyer's diversification into children's literature.

Morgana's characters have come in for a bit of criticism in the past. However, the comic strenuously defends all her creations, and doesn't have any such concerns about poking fun at celebrities in this new show.

"I don't think my impressions are nasty, they're celebratory," she insists.



Morgana Robinson's The Agency, Monday, BBC2, 10pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Extreme Food

Channel 4, 8pm

New series. Kenyan chef Kiran Jethwa heads to Mongolia, where he joins the Kazakh eagle hunters on horseback on a quest for wild rabbit. His adventure begins in the town of Ulgii in Mongolia's westernmost province, where he sees a potentially explosive form of pressure-cooking called Boodog, involving an entire butchered sheep, and he also creates a mouth-watering rabbit pie, using his own improvised mini-pressure cooker to prepare the meat before serving it up with a nut crumble topping.

Trump vs Clinton Live: US Presidential Debate

Channel 4, 1.45am

New series. Matt Frei presents live coverage of the first of three showdowns in which Democrat nominee Hillary Clinton and her Republican counterpart Donald Trump go head to head, with both candidates taking to the stage knowing their performance may well determine who will become the next president of the United States. Billionaire Trump takes on former US secretary of state Clinton at Hofstra University on Long Island, New York, debating major topics selected by a

moderator, with the pair having two minutes to talk about each issue and a chance to respond to what the other says.

TUESDAY

Damned

Channel 4, 10pm

Given her acclaimed work in sitcoms such as Getting On and Going Forward, there was little wonder Jo Brand was given a green light to co-write and star in this new series. With the aid of fellow scribes Morwenna Banks and Will Smith (not that one), this new comedy centres on long suffering Children's Services social workers at Elm Heath council. In the first episode, Nitin, an ex-copper, is tasked with spying on the rest of the team. The excellent supporting cast includes Ms Banks, Alan Davies, Kevin Eldon, Himesh Patel and Aisling Bea.

WEDNESDAY

Grand Designs

Channel 4, 9pm

Kevin McCloud follows Matt and Sophie White from Sussex as they build a giant family house

of fun for themselves and their children. Going against the norm of designing a serious and practical home, the couple's property features a revolving bookcase door, secret dens, hiding places, one-way mirrors, and a fireman's pole. Matt uses a steel frame system to allow them to change the layout of the property, and other changes include amending the window shapes and sizes, and adding a half floor to create a James Bond room.

THURSDAY

The Fall

BBC2, 9pm

The eagerly awaited third series of Allan Cubitt's gripping crime drama is here at last – but what does fate have in store for the chillingly handsome serial killer Paul Spector and his nemesis, Detective Superintendent Stella Gibson? At the end of



The Fall, Thursday, BBC2, 9pm

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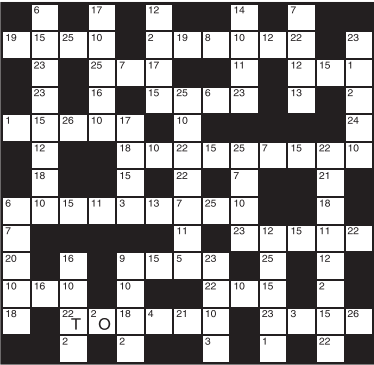
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BRAIN GYM No.396

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
L E B P F R A M O V K J G
C N W Z D X S H I U Q T Y

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

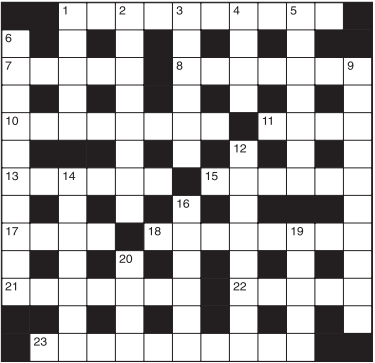
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 1. Completely, even if, in short, only approximately (10)
- 7. Gather a lot together in the morning on a ship (5)
- 8. Beware the sentinel! (4-3)
- 10. Magic from the bowler? (3-5)
- 11 & 3Dn. Time when voice gives out amongst a lot of sheep (4,1,5)
- 13. So many with less feeling (6)
- 15. Telephone now the arena has been erected (4,2)
- 17. Implied one missed diplomacy (4)
- 18. Takes off weight in a flash? (8)
- 21. Golf-club given by pensive writer? (7)
- 22. Fat microbe seen in it (5)
- 23. How the chief speaks in the graveyard (10)

Down

- 1. Drink the health of a saint? (5)
- 2. Sees that the old boy hits the ball first (8)
- 3. See 11 Across
- 4. Increase go-ahead line (4)
- 5. Appearing indistinctly when working at weaving machine? (7)
- 6. Capital amount of laundry? (10)
- 9. Does wrong by obtaining most French exam successes (10)
- 12. Of noble mountain stock? (4-4)
- 14. Horse goes round taxi - gruesome! (7)
- 16. Gate - one of three consecutive ones in (6)
- 19. No odds? (5)
- 20. Relations dunderhead finds sympathetic (4)



Quick Clues:

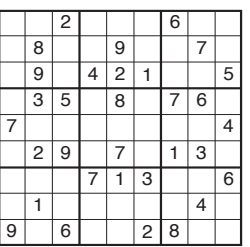
Across

- 1. Combine (10)
- 7. Elevate (5)
- 8. Cultivation (7)
- 10. Traveller (8)
- 11. Uncivil (4)
- 13. Collision (6)
- 15. Decline (6)
- 17. Cupid (4)
- 18. Arbitrator (8)
- 21. Defraud (7)
- 22. Motionless (5)
- 23. Contrition (10)

Down

- 1. Friendliness (5)
- 2. Suspension (8)
- 3. Collect (6)
- 4. Masculine (4)
- 5. Vilify (7)
- 6. Muscularity (10)
- 9. Voters (10)
- 12. Editing (8)
- 14. Supply (7)
- 16. Fault (6)
- 19. Subject (5)
- 20. Rim (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

8	4	1	3	7	5	2	9	6
2	6	5	4	3	1	7	8	3
7	9	3	2	8	6	5	4	1
3	2	6	8	5	9	1	7	4
4	7	8	6	1	2	9	3	5
1	5	9	7	4	3	8	6	2
6	8	4	1	2	7	3	5	9
5	1	7	9	3	4	6	2	8
9	3	2	5	6	8	4	1	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Cowboys; 7 Stain; 9 Tip; 10 Exchanges; 12 Chiropract; 15 Under canvas; 17 Battle-cry; 19 Gin; 21 Again; 22 Counter. Down: 1 Tonic; 2 Ebb; 3 Lynx; 4 Stone-deaf; 5 Disease; 6 Chopin; 11 Chieftain; 13 Racket; 14 Entail; 16 Tides; 18 Riot; 20 And. QUICK - Across: 6 Refrain; 7 Diary; 9 Hit; 10 Reverence; 12 Paradoxical; 15 Break the ice; 17 Affronted; 19 Ray; 21 Remit; 22 Produce. Down: 1 Begin; 2 Dry; 3 Size; 4 Timepiece; 5 Crucial; 8 Remove; 11 Maladroit; 13 Attend; 14 Proffer; 16 Fancy; 18 Earn; 20 Ode.

Thinking space



Quiz

- 1. Which hills range from Bristol to Chipping Camden?
- 2. Which biological divisions include Animalia, Plantae and Fungi?
- 3. Which athlete set six world records in less than an hour in 1935?
- 4. How many kings called James has Scotland had?
- 5. For what is epistaxis the technical term?

- 6. Pico de Orizaba is the highest mountain in which country?
- 7. Which author is best known for Shogun?
- 8. Which legendary figure is said to have been born at Tintagel?
- 9. In which US state is Detroit?
- 10. Who was the last Norman king of England?

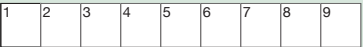
Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Leo; 2 Richard Cromwell; 3 Fig; 4 Ballet; 5 Goodwood; 6 Friedrich Engels; 7 1936; 8 Gold; 9 India; 10 Jesuit priest. Niner: UNEARTHLY

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

8768 gives something to eat,
32145 gives a wine,
84798 gives something else to eat.



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Enjoying jumping into the sea at Loyly Sauna, Helsinki



A mushroom on the forest floor in the national park



Full steam ahead – the Loyly Sauna against the backdrop of Helsinki



Admiring the view from Vallisaari Island

Full steam ahead to Finn-ish on a high in my peaceful tree tent

FOR a population so adeptly conditioned to cold weather, Finns are surprisingly good at taking the heat.

Tossing a large ladle of water over hot coals, a glistening, tattooed Nordic grins gleefully as our dark, charcoal-stained smoke sauna transforms into an angry furnace.

As steam sings my nostrils and beads of sweat form rivulets in every fleshy fold, I bolt for the door and wonder if Brit basting is all part of the entertainment.

There are 3.3 million saunas in Finland, more than one for every other person, but the majority are private. Helsinki's new Loyly (a term used to describe the steam that rises when you throw water on the sauna's rocks) represents a return to public, social spaces.

By Sarah Marshall

The wooden, steep-sloped structure, with a seaside bar terrace and open-air rooftop lounge, is also part of Helsinki's drive to embrace outdoor spaces and bask in the long, warm days of short but sweet summers.

Elsewhere, a car park has been transformed into a pool complex and a new law has been passed allowing businesses to turn parking spaces outside buildings into temporary summer terraces. Subsequently, an apparently quiet capital is now outwardly effervescent with life. Thankfully, I prevent my own blood bubbling so vigorously by retreating to Loyly's second, more sedate sauna, where horizontal pine slats act like Venetian blinds, revealing near naked bodies descending into the sea.

Closer to town, next to the port and fried

fish stalls of Market Square, the Helsinki Allas Pool is due to fully open later this month. Local residents and tourists are already making use of the dockside terrace, where filtered salt and fresh water swimming pools will be suspended in the harbour next to segregated saunas.

Paddling

The idea for the complex has been partly financed by crowdfunding. Although paddling in the shadow of cruise liners is off-putting, the central location will no doubt prove popular, and owners plan to have a reserve of rentable swimwear for spontaneous sauna goers. Along with cruise ships, sightseeing ferries servicing Helsinki's archipelago also leave from the port.

Newly opened to the public this year is Vallisaari island, a 20-minute journey away. Once occupied by Russia and later

used as a military base, it's now a nature refuge. Strict regulations govern Vallisaari, which is off limits from 10pm to 6am, although there is talk of opening a Tentsile hotel on the island next year.

The gravity defying, British-made Tentsile Tree Tents, which appear to levitate above ground and are suspended between three trees, have developed a cult following in Finland, and adventure tour companies currently use them in nearby Nuukso National Park.

According to the traditional Finnish legal concept of Everyman's Right, the public have the right to roam freely through wilderness areas. Using thick pads to protect the trees, Miki sets up our tents next to the bathwater-warm Lake Kolmoislampi. By nurturing nature on their doorstep, Helsinki's city dwellers have struck upon a truly fine way to live.

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Price includes

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Price includes

- Return direct flights from Birmingham
- 7 nights HB accommodation on the Costa Dorada
- Three fully guided walks
- Return rail fares to the walks
- Option to extend your holiday
- Services of a tour representative

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CHRONICLE

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
BUYING AND
LETTING

33
Dudley Chronicle Thursday, September 22, 2016

Home is set on a smart cul-de-sac

Forming part of a delightful and exclusive cul-de-sac development upon the countryside fringe of Wombourne, 6 Cushman Avenue, Wombourne has an exceptionally spacious layout.

With a large driveway and a double garage, it is for sale through Taylors at £359,950.

The luxury accommodation is ready to move into and includes four excellent-sized bedrooms (master en suite) It is complemented by a pleasant patio/lawned rear garden which benefits from an open rear aspect.

The development is well placed within easy reach of the heart of Wombourne Village which provides a good selection of shops, local schooling and regular public transport services. Commuters will find that nearby major roads lead out further afield towards Wolverhampton City Centre, Kidderminster and Telford.

A spokesman for the selling agent said: "A personal visit is highly recommended for the superb setting and very impressive layout to be fully appreciated."

Including gas central heating and double glazing, the accommodation in more detail includes a large reception hall with Karndean flooring, a door to a useful cloak cupboard/store and stairs rising to the first floor accommodation.

Being spacious, the lounge has a walk-in bay window to the front, a remote controlled "living flame" gas fire with "limestone" feature fireplace surround and a double width doorway leading through to the separate formal dining room. This has French-style doors to the rear garden and a door to the beautiful dining kitchen.

Being L-shaped, this has a range of light wood-effect units, an integrated "Hotpoint" stainless steel gas hob with cooker hood above, integrated "Hotpoint" double oven, integrated "Smeg" dishwasher and integrated fridge/freezer. It also has a large dining/family area, French-style doors, part wall tiling and ceiling spotlights.

The utility/laundry room has a sink and plumbing for a washing machine and space for a tumble dryer.

The double garage is entered via two separate up-and-over doors. The rear garden extends to one side of the property and with a lawn off which slopes gently to the rear.

WOMBOURNE £359,950



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Taylors

TEL: 01384 401777

EMAIL: kingswinford@taylors-estateagents.co.uk

KEY FEATURES

On fringe of town

Impressive

4 bedrooms

En suite & family bathroom

Double garage and gardens



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01384 265265

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Also at **Stourbridge and Halesowen**



SEDGLEY, Longmeadow Drive, Northway

ABSOLUTELY OUTSTANDING, renovated & ENLARGED, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached that has been transformed with garden abutting onto brook/countryside comprising; hall, dining/living room, refitted hub of the house/kitchen, lobby, cloakroom, utility room, Three bedrooms, bathroom. Shortened garage, drive & garden with distant views. EPC: C SEDGLEY



LOWER GORNAL, Chase Road

SIGNIFICANTLY EXTENDED, SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated, double glazed THREE BEDROOM detached family home presented in superb order throughout with LARGE L SHAPE GARDEN comprising; hallway, shower room, extended 21'8" lounge, inner hallway, store, principal bedroom, kitchen, magnificent CONSERVATORY. To the first floor; landing with extensive fitted wardrobes, two double bedrooms, bathroom. Extensive parking, garden. EPC:D SEDGLEY



KINGSWINFORM, Ploverdale Crescent

Forming part of this popular address upon the sought after Sandpipers development, this DISTINCTIVE DAVID PAYNE DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE offers an impressively spacious and well presented layout of accommodation including FOUR GOOD BEDROOMS, master with EN-SUITE, plus a large driveway, GARAGE / CARPORT and an attractively laid out rear garden which benefits a private rear aspect. EPC D

New price

WAS £275,000, NOW £259,950

Offers in the region of £259,950

£249,950



WORDSLEY, Fenn Rise

DELIGHTFULLY SITUATED WITHIN THIS SUPERB CUL DE SAC, THIS ATTRACTIVELY IMPROVED THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME offers a spacious and beautifully presented layout with a CONSERVATORY, plus driveway, GARAGE and an attractive rear garden. EPC D

£204,950



WALL HEATH, Albert Street

A DETACHED FAMILY HOME with a LARGE REAR GARDEN, superbly located, close to Village shops and desirable schools, requiring updating, offering a GENEROUS layout which includes TWO GOOD RECEPTION ROOMS and THREE LARGE BEDROOMS. EPC D

New price

£204,950



SEDGLEY, Queens Road

AN EXTENDED, traditional semi-detached property situated in the much sought after area of Sedgley. Benefiting from central heating and double glazing, this good-sized family home also offers, entrance porch, hallway, sitting room, through lounge-diner, extended kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, re-fitted shower room, enclosed rear garden, driveway to front offering parking for multiple vehicles. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £179,950



SEDGLEY, Wenlock Close, Brownswall estate

OFFERING POTENTIAL, a gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached requiring some updating situated at head of short cul de sac in favoured district. The ENLARGED accommodation provides porch, hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room, separate toilet. Three bedrooms, bathroom, toilet, garage, garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £170,000



LOWER GORNAL, The Spinney

TREMENDOUSLY SPACIOUS Gas centrally heated (recent combi boiler) and UPVC double glazed semi detached that has been tremendously upgraded in recent years set in popular cul-de-sac. Accommodation includes reception hallway, spacious living/dining room, breakfast kitchen, store, side lobby, integral garage. THREE GENEROUS BEDROOMS, reapointed/retilled bathroom with contemporary white suite. Recently landscaped/secluded rear garden. EPC Rating D SEDGLEY.

New price

Was £170,000, Now £168,500



LOWER GORNAL, Grosvenor Road

VERY FLEXIBLE ACCOMMODATION! - Surprisingly spacious, Freehold, gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed dormer style detached within walking distance of so many amenities & enjoying good distant views comprising: entrance porch, reception hall, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, THREE BEDROOMS (en suite to master), two large garages, front and rear gardens. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £150,000



DUDLEY, Wrens Nest Road

EXCEPTIONALLY SPACIOUS WITH FOUR GENEROUS BEDROOMS! - Stylish, modern, gas centrally heated, double glazed, intermediate 'family home' comprising: hall, cloakroom, store, kitchen, living/dining room. To the first floor; three bedrooms, bathroom, and to the second floor a superb principal bedroom suite with built in mirrored wardrobes, walk in store/wardrobe & shower room en suite. Garden, parking. EPC: C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £149,950



DUDLEY, Cardoness Place

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Gas centrally heated double glazed (majority UPVC) semi detached in favoured/convenient district (close to Milking Bank amenities) with entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, pantry. THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, potential garage space, sheltered expertly landscaped rear garden.. EPC: C SEDGLEY

PRICE: £145,000



LOWER GORNAL, The Straits

EXCEPTIONALLY STYLISH gas centrally heated double glazed semi detached 'miners cottage' that has been significantly modernised in recent years carefully retaining many fine period features. Situated in favoured/convenient district comprising: hallway, lounge with cast 'living flame' fireplace, store, refitted kitchen and a CONSERVATORY beyond. Two bedrooms (principle with an extensive range of built in units) bathroom. Potential parking LENGTHY REAR GARDEN. EPC: E SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £142,500



DUDLEY, Stourbridge Road

THIS DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Porch, Hall, Pleasant Lounge with Dining Area, Kitchen, Beautifully Appointed Shower Room, Attractive Driveway, Integrated Garage, Substantial Garden. EPC D

New price

£134,950



PENSNETT, Bryce Road

Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN, THIS BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED & EXPENSIVELY FURNISHED, TWO BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Spacious Lounge, STUNNING CONTEMPORARY KITCHEN with WOW FACTOR, Well Appointed Shower Room & Large Garden. EPC E

New price

£105,950



COSELEY, Painters Croft

Tastefully presented modern intermediate situated in a popular development in Coaseley. Benefiting from living room, kitchen-diner, TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS, bathroom, enclosed rear garden, parking to front, central heating and double glazing. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £104,950



QUARRY BANK, Stour Hill

THIS ATTRACTIVE & MOST APPEALING, TWO BEDROOM, PERIOD STYLE HOME is available for sale with NO UPWARD CHAIN and comprises: Lovely Sitting Room, Spacious Breakfast Kitchen, Two first Floor Bedrooms, White Suite Bathroom, Pleasant Garden. EPC: E

£104,950



NETHERTON, Ryan Place

THIS WELL PRESENTED, DORMER BUNGALOW would ideally suit those looking to downsize & offers a DOUBLE GLAZED and GAS CENTRALLY HEATED LAYOUT which comprises: Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom, Two Bedrooms, Low Maintenance Garden, Driveway. EPC C

New price

£99,950



BROCKMOOR, Campbell Street

THIS ATTRACTIVE & EXPENSIVELY APPOINTED, EXTENDED, PERIOD STYLE TERRACE HOME oozes CHARACTER & CHARM & comprises: MODERN WELL FITTED KITCHEN, Pretty garden, White Suite Bathroom, Lounge, TWO GOOD FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS, USEFUL UTILITY! EPC: C

£94,950



LOWER GORNAL, Sandyfields Road, Straits

REMARKABLY SPACIOUS! tremendously modernised, ENLARGED, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached family home with exceptionally flexible room arrangements presented in superb order throughout comprising; reception hall, L shape living/dining room, kitchen, dining room (alternative fourth bedroom?), third bedroom, "wet-room", toilet. To the first floor are; two dormer bedrooms & shower room. Garage, sheltered rear garden and panoramic distant views. EPC: E SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, Wolverhampton Road

Traditional gas centrally heated and either UPVC single or double glazed semi detached of character with many period features having been conscientiously maintained over the years but now offering further potential. Accommodation includes entrance porch, imposing reception hall (lofty ceiling height), pantry, lunge with bay, dining room, kitchen, verandah, three bedrooms, bathroom, separate toilet, lengthy garage, garden. EPC:TBA SEDGLEY.



SEDGLEY, The Ridgeway

An appreciably spacious, gas centrally heated semi detached for improvement in favoured neighbourhood with GOOD DISTANT VIEWS that has been conscientiously maintained over the years but now requires updating comprising; entrance porch, hallway, separate dining room, through living room, rear lobby, pantry, kitchen, utility/store, outer porch, outbuilding, Three generous bedrooms, bathroom. Garden.EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £245,000

Offers in the region of £170,000

Offers in the region of £165,000



COSELEY, Ward Street

ENLARGED, significantly improved, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached close to many amenities comprising; porch, hall, 17'3" lounge, enlarged & refitted 25'1" dining kitchen, Three bedrooms, large 'wet room' (former bathroom), parking, secluded rear garden. EPC: TBC. SEDGLEY.



DUDLEY, Himley Road

ENLARGED, modernised, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached comprising; entrance porch, reception hall, dining room with bay, 17' lounge, breakfast kitchen; three bedrooms, bathroom. Lengthy garden, panoramic views, and CAR PORT together with ADDITIONAL PARKING at rear. EPC: D.SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, Langland Drive

An EXTENDED and enlarged freehold gas centrally heated (not tested) primarily UPVC double glazed (as seen) for improvement set in favoured district and offering tremendous potential. Accommodation includes entrance porch, hall, store, 24'4" through living room (previously separate rooms) EXTENDED kitchen (14'6" x 14'3") three bedrooms (third bedroom enlarged into eaves), bathroom, garage, garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY



BRIERLEY HILL, The Breeze

This expensively appointed, three bedroom townhouse comprises; guests cloakroom with shower, utility, attractive lounge, modern kitchen, three good bedrooms, house bathroom and modern en-suite to master bedroom. Garage & pretty garden. EPC B



NETHERTON, The Beck

This DECEPTIVELY LARGE, THREE STOREY HOME comprises: Hall, Guests Cloakroom, Study, Modern Kitchen being Open Plan to Lounge, PLEASANT REAR GARDEN, Four Bedrooms (Master with Well Appointed En-Suite), Family Bathroom, Off Road Parking. EPC C

Offers in the region of £164,950

Offers in the region of £161,000

New price Was £165,000, Now £160,000

New price £154,950

Now available £154,950



SEDGLEY, Lime Road

A delightfully presented semi detached property located on a corner plot in the popular area of Sedgley. Benefiting from double glazing and central heating this lovely starter home also boasts, hallway, living room, dining room, kitchen, utility/ storage room, guest W/C, TWO BEDROOMS, fitted bathroom, attractive enclosed rear garden and driveway to front. Viewing highly recommended. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY



WOODSETTON, Brook Street

A tastefully presented traditional three storey terrace benefiting from central heating and double glazing and situated in the sought after Woodsetton area of Dudley. Comprising of entrance hall this good-sized family home also boasts; living room, dining room, guest W/C, re-fitted breakfast-kitchen, family bathroom, THREE BEDROOMS, enclosed rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY



UPPER GORNAL, Eve Lane

A fantastically presented traditional semi-detached property situated in the popular Upper Gornal area. It consists of entrance hall, well-appointed lounge, fitted kitchen-diner, THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, enclosed rear-garden with CABIN, centrally heated & double glazed, off-road parking, EPC Rating D SEDGLEY



PENSNETT, Redfly Lane

Encompassing a CONTEMPORARY GLOSS STYLE KITCHEN & MODERN BATHROOM, This GORGEOUS & EXTENDED, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME should be viewed early & also comprises: Hall, Stylish Through Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Garden. EPC: B



DUDLEY, Holly Road

A good-sized family home priced to reflect the tremendous opportunity for improvement. This semi-detached property benefits from entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, conservatory, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, parking, integral garage and NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: F. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £124,950

Offers in the region of £124,950

Offers in the Region of £124,950

£117,950

Offers in the region of £114,950



PENSNETT, Primrose Park

An IMPRESSIVE END MEWS RETIREMENT BUNGALOW, delightfully located within this sought after and secure WARDEN CONTROLLED gated development, including beautifully maintained gardens, offering a VERY WELL PRESENTED One Double Bedroom layout with an impressive CONSERVATORY. EPC C



DUDLEY, Attingham Drive

No.61 offers advantage of purchasing in conjunction with the Midland Heart Housing Associations SHARED OWNERSHIP SCHEME whereby the present vendors 50% SHARE is currently available to buy, the remaining 50% owned by the Housing Association who charge a fair market rental reviewed annually in line with any increase in the Retail Price Index. The property benefits from; living room, kitchen-diner, guest W/C, bathroom, THREE BEDROOMS, parking, garden. EPC: B SEDGLEY.



BROCKMOOR, Cressett Lane

THIS TWO BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME has huge potential to create a lovely FIRST HOME and may make an ASTUTE INVESTMENT PROPERTY. Comprising: Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Bathroom, Allocated Garden, DOUBLE GLAZING, GAS CENTRAL HEATING. EPC E



BRIERLEY HILL, Dadford View

THIS VERY WELL PRESENTED & BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED, GROUND FLOOR, MAISONETTE comprises: Porch, Lovely Open Plan Kitchen / Lounge, Generous Double Bedroom, Stunning White Suite Bathroom, Allocated Parking & Pretty Communal Gardens. EPC:



TIPTON, Wood Street

A superbly presented first floor maisonette situated within walking distance of Tipton train station and shopping precinct. This fully modernised property benefits from living room, kitchen, bedroom, shower room, central heating and double glazing, garage and off road parking. It has also recently been achieving £450PCM as a rental property. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY

No upward chain £92,500

O/A £69,950 for 50% share

£69,950

£67,500

New price WAS £59,950, NOW £54,950



SWINSCOES

Sedgley
01902 672274
sales@swinscoes.co.uk

SEDGLEY



Wolverhampton Road,

- A beautiful dormer Bungalow
- IDEAL FAMILY HOME
- Set among extensive grounds
- Excellent condition
- Three/four bedrooms
- Snooker Room
- Two garages
- EPC Rating - E

GUIDE PRICE £399,950

LOWER GORNAL



Prospect Road,

- A rare opportunity near Gornal Village
- SPLIT LEVEL HOUSE
- Bedrooms downstairs
- Balcony with fantastic views
- Low maintenance garden
- Opportunity to create ideal home
- FIVE bedrooms
- EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £244,950

UPPER GORNAL



Ox Street,

- A DETACHED home
- Three bedrooms
- Open plan kitchen diner
- Driveway and Garage
- Pleasant cul-de-sac
- EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £174,950

BRAMFORD ESTATE, COSELEY

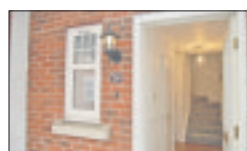


Cedar Avenue,

- A fabulous Semi-Detached
- Popular Bramford Estate
- Extended across the rear
- Breakfast kitchen an utility
- Lounge and Dining Room
- Fantastic large rear garden
- Garage and driveway
- IDEAL FAMILY HOME
- EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £172,500

DUDLEY

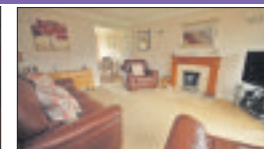


Manderston Close,

- A well presented semi-detached mews style home
- Modern and Contemporary
- Lounge and dining kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Three bedrooms
- House bathroom and en-suite
- New carpets throughout
- Allocated parking
- Detached Garage
- EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £169,950

WOODSETTON

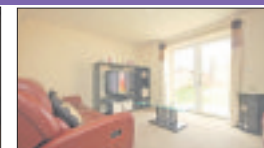


Woodsetton Close,

- FANTASTIC modern Semi-Detached
- Cul-de-sac location nearby popular schools
- 5 Minutes from Sedgley and Coaseley
- Open plan dining kitchen
- Spacious Lounge
- THREE bedrooms
- Landscaped Garden
- Garage and driveway

£159,950

DUDLEY



Bradfield Way,

- A MODERN townhouse
- Approximately 3/4 years old
- Under NHBC guarantee
- breakfast kitchen
- THREE bedrooms
- Well maintained rear garden
- IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY
- EPC Rating - B

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £139,950

DUDLEY



Penny Royal Close, Lower Gornal

- *Modern end of terrace
- *Attractive, well presented
- *Breakfast Kitchen
- *TWO-bedroom
- *Ideal for first time buyers
- *Close to Milking Bank
- *NO UPWARD CHAIN
- *Awaiting EPC

£126,950

UPPER GORNAL, UPPER GORNAL



Pale Street,

- A 2 bedroom semi-detached
- MODERN dining kitchen
- Recently built conservatory
- Wet room and utility
- Two double bedrooms
- Fantastic size rear garden
- Ideal FIRST TIME BUY
- EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £124,950

COSELEY



Skidmore Road,

- * BRAND NEW development
- * Two bedrooms
- * Luxury kitchen & bathroom
- * Allocated parking
- * Rear gardens
- * Ideal first time buy
- * Flexible mortgages available
- * EPC rating- B

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £124,950

41 DUDLEY STREET, SEDGLEY



Dormston Lodge,

- A most attractive, modern, ground floor 2 bedroom apartment
- Conveniently situated in the heart of Sedgley Town.
- Well proportioned and well presented.
- Parking area.
- Electric gates to both front & rear.
- EPC Rating - TBC

ASKING PRICE £120,000

HIGH HOLBORN, SEDGLEY



Holborn House,

- A most attractive duplex apartment
- Situated in the heart of Sedgley Town
- Uniquely designed layout over 2 floors
- Feature double height ceilings
- One bedroom and two bathrooms
- Another reception room (office/playroom)
- Communal ROOF TERRACE
- Secure parking area
- AN IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY
- EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £114,950

BILSTON



Steven Drive,

- A well presented town house
- TWO bedrooms
- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- Open plan lounge
- Modern kitchen
- Approx 19 years old
- Landscaped rear garden
- IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY
- EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £109,950

PENNFIELDS



Burleigh Road,

- A THREE bedroom terrace
- Prominent for City Centre
- IDEAL for a FIRST TIME
- Three good size bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Rear Garage
- EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £99,950

SEDGLEY



Etymore Close, Sedgley

- A spacious Maisonette
- Central to Sedgley
- Set over 2 floors
- Two good size bedrooms
- Kitchen & Lounge
- An ideal investment property
- EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £80,000



Beautifully presented and extended family home

DUDLEY
£315,000 <<<

Beautifully presented and extended, this four-bedroom residence in The Broadway, Dudley, has spacious quality accommodation.

It is for sale through Wakeman Estates at £315,000.

It has a reception hall, a cloakroom, dining room, a lounge, a farmhouse-style kitchen, a pantry, landing, four bedrooms, an en-suite shower room, a bathroom, separate WC, gardens, parking and a garage.

Close to Dudley town centre and a short distance from Priory Gardens, this excellent home has been sympathetically modernised throughout with fittings and presentation being to a high standard. A spokesman for the selling agent said: "Rarely does a property of this quality come to the market."

Contact Wakeman Estates on 01384 459999 or visit www.wakeman-online.com



Three bedroom semi for sale without chain

DUDLEY
£163,500

For sale with no chain, this three-bedroomed semi-detached house in Corser Street, Dudley, has an asking price via Trinity Property at offers in excess of £163,500.

Including a large lounge, a driveway and a rear garden with a patio and lawn, it briefly comprises an entrance hallway, a large lounge and fitted kitchen with a separate dining area, three good-sized double bedrooms and a house bathroom, with a separate WC. The rear outside has a patio, lawn and with various shrubs and borders with brick built shed.

This is a must see property and the agents are stressing that it really needs to be viewed in order to be fully appreciated.

Contact Trinity Property on 01384 213395 or visit www.trinityproperty.net



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Historic home has been upgraded over the years

The Cottage in Chamberlains Lane, Penn, Wolverhampton, stands in a quiet semi-rural location on the end of the lane on the fringes of Penn Common.

It is for sale through DB Roberts & Partners at £475,000. The residence is believed to date from the 1800s and has been upgraded over the years.

It has extremely well-proportioned

**PENN
£475,000**

accommodation with two large reception rooms – one with an inglenook fireplace and parquet flooring.

There's also a study/TV room and a conservatory leading from the superb breakfast kitchen. On

the first floor are three generous bedrooms and a large family bathroom. The master bedroom has an en-suite. The cottage has lovely well-stocked gardens to the front, rear and side with garden shed, large patio areas and wide forecourt with ample parking space.

Contact DB Roberts & Partners on 01902 427257 or visit www.dbroberts.co.uk

K. Stuart Swash

AUCTION - 4TH OCTOBER 2016



29 PATRICIA CRESCENT, WOODSETTON

On a prominent and large corner plot. Gas CH., majority Double Glazing, Canopy Porch, Hall, Two Reception, Kitchen, Store, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, W.C., Large outdoor Store with light and power. EPC: D56

Guide: £88,000 / £93,000

VIEWING

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 23rd & 24th SEPTEMBER @ 11.30 a.m.



4 WAITE ROAD, WILLENHALL

Ripe for modernisation – within an established residential area Three Bed Semi., Bathroom, Hall, Two Reception, Kitchen, Lobby, WC., Coals, part Gas CH. EPC:E53

Guide: £62,000 / £68,000

VIEWING

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 23rd & 24th SEPTEMBER @ 10.00 a.m.



FLAT 2, CHAPEL COURT, CHAPEL STREET, PENSNETT (access via main entrance r/o St. James' Church Hall)

Ground Floor Flat within a convenient location Private Hallway with entry 'phone, large light Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom, large Double Bedroom, private parking. EPC: D56

Guide: £48,000 / £53,000

VIEWING

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 23rd & 24th SEPTEMBER @ 12.30 p.m.



37 THE LINDENS, NEWBRIDGE, WOLVERHAMPTON

An immaculately presented First Floor Flat recently modernised to a high standard. Impressive Kitchen, Lounge with lovely rear outlook, Two Bedrooms, smart up-to-date Shower Room with white fittings

Garage. EPC: E48

£48,000 / £53,000

VIEWING

FRIDAY & SATURDAY,
23rd & 24th SEPTEMBER @ 11.00 a.m.



4 CHURCHFIELD AVENUE, TIPTON

Spacious Ground Floor Flat now needing upgrade.

Communal Hall, private Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, WC Gas CH., Parking. EPC: E52

Guide: £27,000 / £30,000

VIEWING

FRIDAY & SATURDAY,
23rd & 24th SEPTEMBER @ 10.30 a.m.



FOX'S LANE, WOLVERHAMPTON

Near City Centre – an enclosed area of Land with 75ft.(approx) frontage.

Double entrance gates to Fox's Lane – understood to comprise 0.08 acre (approx).

Recently used with an Operator's Licence for HGV's

Guide: £15,000 / £20,000

VIEW ON SITE

VIEWING OF ALL LOTS AT OWN RISK. PLEASE NOTE: Viewings are at the times specified so, should you arrive late, you may find your viewing time is limited or that we have moved on in order to maintain the time schedule.

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Megane's freshened up range pleasing

By Ian Donaldson

EVER heard of the Renault Talisman? Thought not; you're only likely to see one if you venture across the Channel or, perhaps cruise past the French embassy in London.

For the Talisman, successor to the old Laguna, is not sold here. Too big for Britain, you see, where our larger cars need posher badges to sell. But the Talisman plays an important part in a car very much on sale here, and crucial to the continuing better fortunes of Renault in the UK.

Say hello to the new Renault Megane, a core vehicle in the French car maker's sales ledger on our side of the Channel and now presented in its fourth generation for our delight.

Bolder looking (much, and elegantly stylish too), the new Megane is longer and lower than before but, thankfully for our crowded streets, precisely the same modest width as before. The wheels, with up to a sporty 18ins alloy rim available, are set further apart front and rear and across the body too, again helping the newcomer look energetically athletic.

Night and day, you are helped to notice the new Megane with rows of permanently lit LEDs at front and rear, which the designers say helps make the car look wider (they always like that). They will also like an interior that cuts down on buttons to the extent that just about any adjustments outside cabin temperature are handled by taps on a touchscreen whose generous size dominates the centre of the dash and adds an expensive feel; not quite in Tesla territory but the Megane inhabits a much more affordable part of the market.

Prices start at £16,600 and top out at £25,500 (for the moment) for a range that takes in four engines; a couple of diesels with 110 or 130 horsepower and a pair of petrol models, offering 130hp or – in the current range topper – a 205 horsepower GT with auto gears and a bit of attitude.

Later this year a Sport Tourer estate joins the five-door hatch and 2017 sees a low emissions hybrid diesel/electric version and a pure diesel with two turbos and a healthy 165 horsepower.

Platform

Helping the new Megane feel grown up are front seats from the car mentioned at the top of this story – the car you've never heard of. In fact the Talisman donates much more than that to the common cause, including its engines and other oily bit you don't see.

Most important of all is the platform the car is built on. Again invisible to car buyers, this complicated piece of pressed, folded and welded metal costs billions to develop and sharing its start up investment makes everything more affordable. You will find it under most current and forthcoming Renault cars and lots of Nissans too, thanks to the 'strategic partnership' between the two giant automakers.

Bits that you can see that cost sharing has made more affordable are electronic features like a control centre letting you access everything from navigation (a TomTom system that is notably clear and easy to use) to phone, apps and radio.

Posher Meganas have a bigger touchscreen that mimics a smartphone or tablet with pinch and zoom movements, although these are best managed on smoother roads.

Depending on precise model you can use what Renault calls Multi-Sense technology to change, among other things, engine throttle response, steering weight, engine sound... even the hue of the interior lighting, perhaps opting for sporty red, eco green or comfort blue.

The new Megane has already taken a top marks five star safety rating in the official Euro test and Renault offers a full suite of driver assists from adaptive cruise control, through lane departure warning to overspeed prevention that reads traffic signs via a camera and slows you down to the legal limit. You can switch this and many other systems off if you're not in the mood.

First out driven was the £20,400 Dynamique S Nav dCi 110 diesel made a good initial impression, with much improved cabin quality over the old model and a cleanly minimal feel to everything. Pulled well, too, and went quietly about the business of moving you about.

It was a quiet place to spend a couple of hours, though, and a trip computer showing 53.5mpg at journey's end promised an economical time for a longer term owner.

Jumping into the reigning flagship, a £25,500 GT Nav 205 EDC and tackling some demanding moorland roads (when the dozy sheep retreated far enough) produced more smiles than before, even if 27.3mpg was less cheering.

Much more supportive front seats, a generally well behaved automatic dual-clutch six-speed gearbox and healthy dose of power turned the fun dial from four to eight - Renault will surely produce a turn-to-eleven version in due course.

The petrol engine stayed quiet and well mannered and the ride stayed the right side of too firm, with crisp steering – aided by the rear tyres doing some of the turning via a four-wheel steering system that felt over-eager to start with - making this fastest new Megane (so far) a fine introduction to the fresh faced range.



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All cars Pre-Reg 16 Plate with balance of manufacturer's warranty. Offer available only while stocks last. These offers supersede any previous offers. Pictures for illustration purposes only.

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Batteries get more power in BMW i3

By James Fosdyke

At first glance, it's just another i3, and if you look at the oily bits underneath you'd still be hard-pushed to spot the difference, but this i3 has a secret that's quite literally been tucked away under the carpet.

As ever, there's a bank of batteries in the car's floor, but the 94Ah suffix denotes the amount of power those batteries can store. Whereas the standard i3 only holds 60Ah, the 94Ah model holds half that much again, and that means the range has increased by 50 per cent to 195 miles. If you go for the version with the petrol-powered range extender, though, BMW says you'll be looking at squeezing 276 miles from a single charge.

But despite the extra range, the new battery fits in exactly the same box as its predecessor, so there's no visible difference. In fact, BMW will even let you swap out an old 60Ah battery and replace it with a 94Ah one. It's a quick job – BMW say it's around an hour and a half's work – but it is costly. Including tax, the German company estimates it'll set you back around 9,000 Euros (about £7,600).

The i3's looks have always been divisive, but even its biggest critics wouldn't hesitate to call it striking. Even though it makes very little in the way of noise, it's a car people will still turn around to look at.

Inside, it continues the left-field look, but it's strong on its environmental credentials. The plastics on the dashboard and door cards, for example, are made from plant fibres, and there's any number of recycled bits and bobs lurking in other areas. Whether they love it or hate it, whoever comes along for a ride will certainly have an opinion.

For all the i3's technology, it isn't actually that practical a car. Although it's tall – it's actually about the size of a high-riding Ford Fiesta – the boot measures just 260 litres, so it's less than you'll find in the back of a VW Polo.

There's plenty of headroom in the rear, though, and even if the legroom is a little limited, access is made simple by the so-called 'suicide' rear doors. They can only be opened after the front doors, and they open the other way, meaning there's no B-pillar to obstruct you as you try to get in or out.

Range

With the extra power capacity, the 94Ah i3 certainly offers an extended range. The quoted 195-mile striking distance is probably a tad ambitious, especially if your right foot becomes leaden or you try keeping up with traffic on a motorway, but you shouldn't have too much trouble getting 140 or perhaps 150 miles from it.

If you do get the urge to bury your right foot in the bulkhead, though, you'll find there's no improvement in performance, but then the i3 never has been a slouch. The sprint from 0-62mph takes 7.3 seconds – much the same as a Mazda MX-5 – and the buckets of torque produced by the electric motor make it feel even faster.

Through the corners, its height and front-wheel drive layout make it roll and understeer if you get a bit too enthusiastic, but the trade-off is ride quality. It's a comfortable machine, with suspension that's firm without being jarring, and soft seats that offer more support than you'd expect just from looking at them.

Prices start from £27,830, including the government's £4,500 grant, but if you can't get the money out of Ms May – for whatever reason – you'll be looking at a bill for about £32,000. Opt for the range extender, and that will rise to more than £35,000. Whichever way you cut it, that's a lot of money.

But considering that the i3's closest rival, the top-of-the-range Nissan LEAF, is only a couple of thousand pounds more expensive, but is far less of a premium product and has a shorter range, it looks like relatively good value.

The i3 is a great second car for anyone who regularly drives into the city centre, but even with the extra range, it's of limited use as a tourer. Still, if you want a nippy, environmentally friendly hatchback to complement your main set of wheels, but don't want to sacrifice the premium feel, BMW has built the car for you.



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Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai range: Urban 25.2 (11.2) – 78.5 (3.6), Extra Urban 38.7 (7.3) – 80.7 (3.5), Combined 32.1 (8.8) – 76.3 (3.7), CO₂ Emissions 231 – 84 g/km. Fuel consumption: figures shown are based on official EU test figures. These are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results.

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43

Dudley Chronicle Thursday, September 22, 2016

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09 59	RENAULT CLIO EXPRESSION 1.2 5DR BLACK 29,500 MILES.....				SOLD			13 63 VAUXHALL MERIVA TECHLINE 1.4 5DR PEPPERDUST 11,000 MILES *SAT-NAV*..... £8295	
12 62	VAUXHALL AGILA 1.2S 5DR BLAZE RED 17,000 MILES.....				£4295			13 13 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA DESIGN NAV 1.6 5DR POWER RED ONLY 4,300 MILES..... £8695	
12 12	SUZUKI ALTO 1.0 SZ4 5DR GREY WITH BLACK ALLOYS 16,700 MILES				SOLD			12 12 ZAFIRA TOURER EXCLUSIV 2.0CDTI 5DR SILVER LIGHTNING 28,500 MILES..... £9295	
11 11	PEUGEOT 207 ENVY 1.4 3DR METALLIC RED 30,700 MILES.....				£4495			14 64 VAUXHALL MERIVA TECHLINE 1.4 5DR CARBON BLACK 14,400 MILES *SAT-NAV* £9395	
11 11	VAUXHALL CORSA EXCITE 1.3CDTI 5DR RED 69,700 MILES.....	£4995	£500		£4495			13 13 FORD FOCUS ZETEC 1.6TDCI 115ps ESTATE RED 19,300 MILES..... £9995	
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11 61	VAUXHALL CORSA SE 1.4 AUTOMATIC 5DR SILVER LIGHTNING 68,300 MILES 1 OWNER.....	£5495	£500		£4995			16 16 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA TOURER SRI 1.6CDTI SHINY ROCK 1,900 MILES *SAT-NAV, WINTER PACK, 19" ALLOYS*..... £17995	
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Inspired by the GT spirit

By Anthony Martyn

DS Performance, synonymous with the FIA Formula E Championship, is the creative force behind a new trim level – 'DS Performance Line' that will be available across the DS Automobiles range from October.

Officially revealed for the first time today, the DS Performance Line combines the spirit of the GT with refinement and the latest DS brand technologies.

For DS Automobiles, the last year has been all about performance. DS Virgin Racing reached the podium in its first Formula E season by winning the Buenos Aires E-prix and repeatedly finishing in the points or starting at the front of the grid throughout the 2015/2016 campaign.

DS E-TENSE was revealed at the Geneva Motor Show as a unique, high-performance electric car showcasing future DS technology and styling, and new DS 3 Performance and new DS 3 Cabrio Performance were recently launched as two models proudly expressing their dynamic credentials.

Now, with the introduction of the DS Performance Line, the brand's engineers and designers – along with the DS Performance motor sport division – have utilised their know-how to create this new offering.

"The 'DS Performance Line' offers all the fundamental ingredients of a Grand Tourer, namely style and driving pleasure," said Éric Apode, DS Automobiles' vice president for products and business development.

Be it a new DS 3, new DS 3 Cabrio, new DS 4 or DS 5, a Performance Line model is instantly recognisable.

Each body style is specified with a contrasting black roof, combined with a specific palette of body colours (seven for DS 3, six for DS 4, and five for DS 5).

The new large gloss black alloy wheels feature the DS logo set against a Carmine Red background on the centre caps to add exclusivity to all DS Performance Line models.

The signature colours of DS Performance (Carmine Red, White and Gold) are seen on key components of the vehicle, such as the door mirrors and the rear spoiler. In addition, the front doors and bonnet are adorned with special new 'DS Performance Line' badges.

Values

Refinement and attention to detail are two fundamental values for DS Automobiles. The DS Performance Line pays tribute to these brand values with a number of specific features including a new style of upholstery with black Dinamica cloth, or a choice of two grades of leather trim. The over stitching on the seats reflects the colours of DS Performance.

The special stitching also adorns the door panels, the gear lever gaiter and the leather steering wheel. In addition, the front seats are embroidered with a 'DS Performance Line' emblem.

The quality of the leather, and the other materials used, enhances the refinement of each interior. A choice of either grained or Nappa leather is available across the entire range.

There is metallic detailing within the cabin, including chrome inserts on the steering



DS Performance Line is dedicated to drivers seeking GT-inspired styling, combined with a choice of refined and efficient engines

wheel and door sill protectors to further enhance the meticulous style of the interior. Finally, new DS 3, new DS 4 and DS 5 offer LED lighting to illuminate the cabin.

On the outside, the DS grille is accentuated by the DS LED Vision light signature – a technology that takes distinction to a new level.

The DS Performance Line features a broad range of efficient engines with outstanding torque, ultra-low CO2 emissions and fuel consumption. All these engines feature Stop & Start technology.

The Performance Line also features the DS brand's latest technological developments including a 7-inch touchscreen, Satellite Navigation, Mirror Screen (MirrorLink® and Apple CarPlay™), and DS connected services via the DS Connect Box.

With its dynamic look, the DS Performance Line is dedicated to drivers seeking GT-inspired styling, combined with a choice of refined and efficient engines.

The DS Performance Line will go on sale in the UK on October 1.

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Supermini offers 4x4 ability in a small car

By James Parker

Suzuki has history with four-wheel drive cars. Although we like to kid ourselves that modern stability and traction control systems will get a two-wheel drive car most places that a four-wheel drive model will go, when the chips are really down, Suzuki knows there's no substitute for sending drive to each corner.

It's sold thousands of Vitaras and Jimny SUVs but the Japanese company has also shifted quite a few rather less overtly four-wheel drive cars. Vehicles such as the SX4, the Kizashi and this, the Swift 4x4.

The Swift's had a bit of a wash and brush up of late and the introduction of the Swift 4x4 delivers supermini buyers an option that's at once a little different to the mainstream and with no little ability at its elbow. If you don't think along the same straight lines as most, this one might well appeal.

The basics first. There's a choice in the engine department, this Swift 4x4 coming with two 1.2-litre petrol four-cylinder units. The cheaper one is good for a wholly unexceptional 94bhp, so don't get any illusions that you're at the wheel of a shrunken Audi RS3. If you can get this thing off the line and through 62mph in less than thirteen seconds, count yourself as a pretty deft driver, or at least one who is deft while displaying zero mechanical sympathy. Better is the 90bhp Dualjet petrol 1.2 powerplant, which offers greater torque and efficiency.

Whatever your engine choice, on the move, you have to prod the five-speed manual transmission around the gate, although nothing's really happening at a particularly frenetic pace. The all-wheel drive mechanicals are simple and rely on a permanent 4-wheel drive system which transfers additional torque to the rear wheels when required.

You'll appreciate the added security this brings in wintry conditions but remember two things. In such conditions, any car is only as good as its tyres and four wheel drive traction advantages aren't equalled by commensurate braking benefits, so it's always best to err on the side of caution.

Detailing

The slightly increased ride height might give you a clue that this is no ordinary Swift but other than that, the Swift 4x4 is extremely discreet. Like the rest of the Swift range, the 4x4 gets the latest styling refreshments including a revised front bumper and grille and silver detailing to the lower front bumper.

For added safety and style, an LED high level brake lamp has been added. The interior design has been given thought too, with better quality seat fabric featuring black as its key-note colour, with lined accents of blue and grey.

The fascia remains very driver focused, with a trio of overlapping dials in the instrument binnacle and a tapered centre console that draws the eye to the gear lever that marshals the five-speed manual transmission. The view out of the car is better than in most rivals, thanks again to that upright seating position and big glass area.

The 4WD Swift is priced at just over £12,000 for the base SZ3 version and just over £14,000 for the higher specified SZ4 Dualjet model which includes power folding door mirrors with integral indicators and Daylight Running Lamps as standard equipment.

Apart from 4x4 badging and that slightly increased body ride height of 25mm, the look of an SZ3 grade 4x4 model appears identical to that of an ordinary Swift SZ3 five-door. The SZ4 variant has a more rugged appearance and offers extra protection over rough ground by adding front and rear skid plates, black wheel arch extensions and black side skirts.

Weighing in at just 65kg over its front-wheel drive sibling, the Swift 4x4 isn't burdened by excess bulk. That said, the base 94bhp 1242cc engine isn't one of the class-leading performers even in front-wheel drive guise when it comes top economy and emission metrics. Still, it's hard to judge 126g/km of CO2 overly harshly when balanced against the security the allwheel drive system affords. You'll fare considerably better if you opt for the more modern 90bhp Dualjet unit of course.

Insurance cover is pricier than the supermini average so you'll probably be best served getting a few quotes before committing.

The Suzuki Swift 4x4 is a modern supermini that's also slightly old-school. In execution, look and feel, the Swift feels bang up to date but the engineering seems to hark back to a short-lived craze for all-wheel drive everything that briefly blossomed and then died in the late eighties.

Still, some old ideas are well worth reviving and the added ride height and grip offered by this Swift will doubtless come in handy during tough winter conditions. It's ideal as a low cost, low worry second car for country people who can't afford to be cut off when the Land Rover is in use. Best if you can to go for the more modern Dualjet engine and the more interesting-looking SZ4 trim level.



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JENNY, looking for a man, 45-55, for adult fun, must be discreet. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423827
LADY, 48, 5ft2, hazel eyes, brown hair, likes skating, looking for a toy boy, 30-42, who is fun and enjoys life to have a good time with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422679
LINDA, blonde green eyed lady with nice figure, likes gym, meals out, music, looking for male to enjoy fun times, status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423879
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DORRIE, 39, sporty, fun, hardworking professional, seeks similar male to help live up weekends and make her laugh. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423883
BERNIE, 42yr old female, sophisticated, genuine, attractive, no ties, OHAC, looking for honest man. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423853
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PHIL, 53, 5ft7, stocky athletic build, likes keep fit, swimming, cosy nights in, meals out, WLTm an honest, attractive, caring lady, with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421385
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Members of TP Riley-Norton Canes Badminton Club with chairman Chris Finch, right



Founding members Inez Edwards, Trevor Appleton and his wife Ros

Badminton aces still call the shots 40 years on

FOUR decades and a number of different homes later, TP Riley-Norton Badminton Club is still going strong.

Despite the popularity of the sport decreasing over the years, members of the club based at Erasmus Darwin Academy in Chasetown still get together every week, with five teams competing in the South Staffordshire Badminton League.

Formed on May 4, 1976, the club is fresh from celebrating its 40th anniversary and is far from done.

Chris Finch has been a member since 1986 and chairman for the best part of a decade. Founder members Ros Appleton and her husband Trevor, Inez Edwards and Kevin Gittus are all still involved as well.

"The competitive side of badminton, league badminton, has been declining for the last 10 to 15 years," said Finch.

Started

"It's all over the country, but I think we're the only club with five teams in the South Staffordshire Badminton League.

"We have three mixed teams. All three mixed teams were in Division One last season and that's the first time a club has had that many in the history of the league.

"We have a men's team who did well but finished second to Aston Villa, who are largely made up of Warwickshire county players.

"The ladies finished second in their league but there were only three teams, so everybody played each other four times.

"Next season, we are not sure whether there will be a ladies' league but they will still be able to play in the mixed league and the men's league as well if they wish."

SPORTING FEATURE

By Joe Edwards

"The competitive side of badminton, league badminton, has been declining for the last 10 to 15 years."

Going back to the late 70s, the club started out as Furzebank Badminton Club as it was based at Furzebank Community School, now called Willenhall E-ACT Academy.

To begin with, they had just one team in Division Seven of the South Staffordshire Badminton League but over time that number grew to 11, competing in both the SSBL and Stafford & District League, with some members also playing for other sides in the Cradley and Worcestershire leagues.

On September 12, 1990, the club moved to TP Riley Community School in Bloxwich and hence changed its name to TP Riley Badminton Club.

After 14 fruitful years there, the club had to move again due to the school becoming Walsall Academy and set up temporarily at a host of venues including Bloxwich Leisure Centre.

Ten years ago, they settled at Erasmus Darwin and in 2008 merged with Norton Canes Badminton Club to become TP Riley-Norton.

Some of Norton's longest-serving members such as Sue Benton, Paul Burton, Andy Reaney, Matt Brookes and Jonathan Hassall are still playing, with other members competing in the County and County

Veterans leagues. While many have stayed loyal to the club, there has been a lot of effort to get more youngsters through the ranks but with limited success.

"We have tried on quite a few occasions over the years to promote junior badminton," said Finch.

"We have done it time and time again but it never seems to generate the sorts of numbers you would think.

"What surprises people, though, is that the standard is very high. We get people aged around 25 to 30 enquiring all of the time and we'll ask 'have you played before?'

"They will be like 'I have played with my mates' then they come along and realise the standard we have here.

"We have got a few young guys who have been here for several months now and they're coming on well and pushing towards being in the men's team.

Enjoy

"We'd like more youngsters to come along through the summer. At our place we have four courts and through the summer there's usually a couple free, so we'd like them to come down and give it a try."

Competing in the SSBL with TP Riley-Norton are Cannock, Wolverhampton-based sides Tiki and Novus, and Three Spires from Lichfield.

Finch insists the members enjoy it as much as ever and there are plans in place to ensure the club keeps moving forward.

"All the club members are friends, we are mates, we love our badminton and then going for a drink together afterwards," he added.

"I'm still playing, and I'm 69, but I can't say I will personally be playing much longer.

"We all love the sport, that's why we are here still. There's a magical feeling you get when you're playing."



Linzi Kernick from Cannock, who has represented England

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Sport

Badminton club still making a big racket after 40 years

Page 51



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Honours are even in the derby match

Stourbridge 2 Halesowen Town 2
LUKE Benbow saved Glassboys from their early horror show in a frenetic Black Country barnstormer at Ambicote on Monday night.

Lee Chilton and Kyle Morrison put Halesowen two up inside five minutes but after Glassboys' boss Gary Hackett sacrificed Joe Hull and switched to a flat back four on 23 minutes, the hosts dominated and were level by the 56th minute thanks to Benbow's double.

Shell-shocked Yeltz creaked for the rest of the match and had 'keeper Dan Platt to thank for a share of the spoils.

Chilton latched on to a loose ball in the box to ram under Matt Gould from close range with 62 seconds on the clock. Stunned Stour were two down when Chilton's fierce corner was thumped home by Kyle Morrison at the far post.

Kaiman Anderson looped agonisingly over for Halesowen, who had a credible penalty appeal waved away when Jordan Goddard's stinging shot appeared to be handled in the box.

The tide turned with Stourbridge reducing the deficit with a penalty. Aaron Griffiths was punished for a tangle with Darryl Westlake and Benbow rifled home. The hosts levelled 11 minutes after the restart when Benbow was released after a quick throw to blast inside Platt's left post from 20 yards.

Stour went for the jugular with Chris Lait denied one-on-one by the feet of Platt. The Yeltz custodian then produced a flying one-handed stop from Green's point-blank header and repeated his antics from Leon Broadhurst's effort.

Stourbridge have been handed a trip to Evo-Stik League Premier Division rivals Ilkeston, in the third qualifying round of the FA Cup, after a 2-1 win at Mickleover. Halesowen, who beat Belper 1-0, face either fellow Evo-Stik Premier clubs Nantwich Town or Marine.

Biggs has to settle for second place in the Hay Hill Raiser

DUDLEY Kingswinford Running Club's Matt Biggs was close to following up last week's win with a victory in the Hay Hill Raiser, an 11.3 mile race out in the country around Hay-on-Wye.

Having been an ever-present in this race since its inception in 2009, as well as a previous winner and course record holder, Biggs was hoping to add his name to their roll of honour again but had to settle for second place after Jon Pugh of Bulth & District claimed the win in 1:12.16. Biggs had the runners-up spot in 1:14.07, some distance ahead of Howard Shearing who was placed third in 1:21.45. Andy Morrison also took part for DK, coming home in 19th place in 1:45.12.

A group of blue hoops took part in the Worcester City 10k, a relatively fast flat race on the roads around the city centre. Dave Ede recording a new personal best for the distance finishing in 242nd in 44.40, Rory Campbell was 437th in 47.54, Bob Jones was 529th in 48.55. Jane Campbell finished in 54.08 in 934th place, Matt Hawker was 1127th in 56.15, and Lucy Elwell was 1338th in 58.33.

Edwards wins club men's singles title



From left, mixed doubles finalists Katy Piller, Adam Tranter, Dave Edwards, Amy Fellows

WOLLASTON Lawn Tennis Club produced another day of superb tennis as members competed in Saturday's finals day of its 2016 Annual Club Championships with eight adult finals and five Junior finals contested at Prestwood Drive.

Dave Edwards won the men's singles beating last year's champion Adam Tranter 6-4, 6-4. The ladies' singles final was won by Margaret Kodz who now holds two singles titles after winning 6-4 in the deciding set to first-time finalist Jane Fox.

The men's doubles was won by last year's runners up Adam Tranter and Noah Crampton, who beat Colin Brown and Richard Such 6-4, 6-4. The

Tennis

ladies' doubles was won again by Hannah Didlock and Yvonne Tivey, overcoming fellow Ladies A team mates Katy Piller and Becky Yates in a straight sets win.

The mixed final saw Dave Edwards and Amy Fellows triumph over Adam Tranter and Katy Piller in a deciding set.

In the Plate tournament Shaun Ryger took the men's singles final 6-3, 6-3 against Paul Adams. They also teamed up to take the men's doubles Plate.

Heathens book place in play-offs

RESILIENT Cradley booked their place in the end of season play-offs with an impressive 53-37 home win over high-flying Kent.

Heathens wrapped up the points with a dominant end to a thrilling encounter. Ashley Morris got his night off to a winning start before a crucial early 5-1 from the reserves gave Heathens the lead. Ben Basford was quick away from the tapes but a determined ride from Bradley Andrews saw him work his way from the back and blast around Kent's Danno Verge on the run to the line.

Ex-Heathens favourite Tom Perry, who was guesting for injured Luke Chessell, had an impressive first ride back in the red, green and white race jacket as he steamed underneath James Shanes into bend three on the second lap to net a share of the spoils.

Following a Kent 4-2 in the fifth, the Heathens responded with one of their own with a ruthless ride from Morris to squeeze out Danny Ayres down the back straight to block the run of the visiting No. 5 to take the chequered flag.

Three shared races followed before Cradley's lead was reduced to two points with Jack Thomas picking up a third while Shanes ended Morris' unbeaten run with a move around the outside away from gate four.

A 4-2 from Perry and Bradley Andrews gave the Heathens confidence and they sealed the deal in style with three 5-1s, two courtesy of Clegg and Morris, after making the most of winning the toss for gate positions at the start of the meeting.

Local rivals Birmingham have picked Cradley in the semi-finals of the play-offs. The first leg will be held at Perry Barr on Wednesday, September 28 with the return at Monmore on Monday, October 10.

Strollers South team step up for trophy

HARTSHILL Strollers will soon need a bigger trophy cabinet after winning yet another walking football tournament.

The club's South team lifted the cup at the second annual event organised by Dudley Council.

The South team beat Birmingham WFC's Blues team 1-0 in the final of the five-a-side tournament held at Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge. Rob Dunning scoring. Birmingham WFC is the new name of Beecherof. Hartshill North team reached the semis but were knocked out by their club mates in a penalty shoot-out. Strollers' home is Summerhill School, Kingswinford.

★★★

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MISSSED KICKS COST DK DEAR

Wolverhampton 7 DK 5

DUDLEY Kingswinford took the lead through hooker Jim Parkes who crashed through the defence for the opening try in the 24th minute.

A quick ball came from a set piece on the DK left, swung wide and a ruck was recycled and the move was kept going with momentum when Duncan Tompkins stepped into fly half and fed the ball to the outside backs. Jim Parkes was able to apply the scoring touch through the stretched defence to put DK further ahead.

The normally reliable Duncan Tompkins missed the conversion and a penalty. Duncan's kicking boots were not found during the break as he missed another early in the second half.

DK's failure to build their tally on the scoreboard was to be exposed as Wolverhampton came back into the game. When the almost inevitable Wolverhampton try came it was converted to give Wolverhampton a 7-5 lead that proved enough for victory despite an attempted DK comeback.

Next DKs are back at Heathbrook to face a stuttering Bournville side.

Stourbridge 49 Sheffield Tigers 21

STOURBRIDGE helped themselves to another bonus-point win as they outgunned spirited Tigers. The visitors raced to a 10-point lead in the first quarter but one-way traffic followed as the Stour pack imposed their physical dominance.

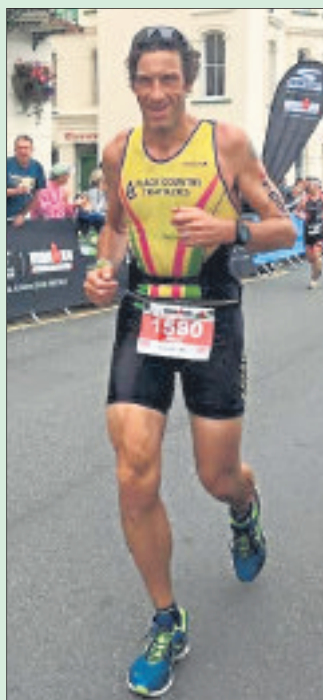
Unbeaten Stour now look optimistically at a tough October fixture list with trips to joint-National 2 North leaders Sale and Sedgley Park.

Tigers struck first through the boot of Angus Bowyer when Stour were penalised for holding on in the tackle. The visitors found Stour's defence dozing, winger Henri Packard taking a pass in space to hare untroubled to the corner.

Stung into action, Luke White's kick secured Stour's opening score. Winger Joe Bridger took a neat reverse pass from Heatley to cross in the corner. Ciaran Moore barged a tackler to score, White's conversion putting Stour ahead. Captain Moore rumbled over for the bonus point try.

Full back Rod Petty took an inside pass to score as White further extended the lead with two penalty kicks. White's neat grubber produced a second try for Heatley, though Tigers got a try for Alex Graham at the death.

Braveheart-Ironman success



Nigel Briscoe completes his first Ironman race

BLACK Country Triathletes travelled to Wales and Scotland to compete in two tough races.

On Saturday Karen Richards competed in the Braveheart Triathlon consisting of a very cold 1.2 mile open water swim, a 56-mile bike and finishing with a 13 mile Ben Nevis run. Richards came home in eight hours and 14 minutes - and still smiling.

Sunday saw a number of BCT athletes compete in the Ironman Wales race. First home for the club was Lee Moreton completing the 2.4 mile swim in 57:25, the 112 mile bike in 5:41:31 and the 26.2 mile run in 3:45:50, giving a total race time of 10:38:20. That placed him 23rd in his age group and 94th overall in a field of more than 1,900 athletes.

Dave Hathaway was next home in a time of 11:46:32 followed by Paul Jones in 11:52:33, Mark Evans in 12:21:04, Matt Price in 12:58:06 and Nigel Briscoe, - completing his first Ironman race - in 13:47:00.

BCT's second Sprint triathlon of the year saw club members in top form as they took podium places. More than 250 athletes competed, both experienced and novice, with a 400m pool swim, 20km cycle followed by a 10k run.

Overall winners were Lee Moreton from BCT in 55:58 for the men and Jessica Harvey from Wrekin Tri Club in 1:04:44 for the ladies. Black Country athletes Paul Rogers and Lauren Evans took second places finishing in 58:01 and 1:06:57 respectively.

Club members also performed well in the various age group categories with all three top slots in the junior girls' category taken by BCT athletes with Gemma Evans in 1:19:09, Holly Lewis 1:20:44 and Daisy Briscoe in 1:29:15.

Ed Povey came third in the junior boys' race in 1:02:33. Ben Monkton was first in the Open category in 59:11. Karen Richards finished first for the ladies in the 40-49 age group in 1:12:51 with Samantha Paine second in 1:16:56. Neil Millward came in second for men in 1:01:48 and Nick Blackham second in 1:02:08. In the 50-59 age group Sue Payton was first in 1:17:31. In the 60 plus category Keith Bate took first in 1:05:57.

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Opening eyes, **minds** and hearts

The High Arcal School has at its heart our mission which is to unlock potential and develop confident individuals, independent learners and good citizens through a rich curriculum which expands students intellectual and cultural horizons.

Our most recent Ofsted report recognised that the school is well led by ***“an effective leadership team” who are “highly committed” and “ambitious for pupils and the academy”***. All staff at The High Arcal School ***“support the drive to continually improve outcomes for pupils wholeheartedly.”*** (Ofsted Nov 2015)

The partnership between staff, students, parents and Governors is vital for success and you will find that these close contacts make education at The High Arcal School very special.

We are delighted that our GCSE results for English and maths remain at national levels of achievement (60%) and that **13** of our wide range of GCSE subjects are also achieving at or above national expectations. ***“There is a good range of subjects for pupils to choose from. The academy offers an increasing number of additional courses in response to pupil requests”*** (Ofsted Nov 2015).

I hope that you will visit us and see for yourself what The High Arcal School has to offer. You will be made very welcome indeed.

J.E. Bull, BA (Hons)
Headteacher



Our **Mission...**



The High Arcal School

Opening eyes, minds and hearts



Learning of course goes a lot further than what is learnt in lessons and at The High Arcal School we offer an exceptionally wide range of activities to enhance the education and experiences of students. "Pupils are able to participate in many additional activities to broaden their experience. There is a wide range of sporting, artistic and cultural opportunities including art, science, dance and PE clubs, an entrepreneurs club and a robotics club" (Ofsted Nov 2015).

In addition, the school places great emphasis on extending students cultural experiences. In the last two years our students have visited France and Belgium in commemoration of the centenary of WW1, China to experience Chinese culture, the World of Business and Technology, Holland and Poland to research the history of both countries, Switzerland to visit the Big Hadron Collider, Barcelona, Valencia and Ireland for sports trips as well as our annual ski trip to different mountain ranges in Europe.



Girls and boys sports teams represent the school in rugby, football, cricket, netball, basketball, tennis, athletics and gymnastics both locally and nationally. Over 200 students participate in our annual Dance Festival and our annual school production brings together dancers, actors, musicians, lighting experts and stage technicians to perform for packed out audiences.

There are opportunities for students to play and perform in several bands, choirs and ensembles. These include Concert Band, Jazz Bands, a Samba Band, Brass Band, vocal guitar group and many more. The Senior Concert Band and Jazz Band have been highly acclaimed nationally and won many awards for their innovation.



Student **Leadership**



The High Arcal School

Opening eyes, minds and hearts

Learning takes place most effectively in calm and harmonious classrooms where a learning culture permeates. Students are encouraged and supported to take responsibility for and leadership of their own learning. Every student takes on a leadership role and is able to gain recognition for their leadership development through our Student Leadership Framework. “Pupils in the academy are confident learners who have a good understanding of what it means to be ready for learning. They arrive at lessons expecting to learn and duly do so. Expectations of behaviour are high and pupils consistently meet these.” (Ofsted Nov 2015)

The support we offer students means that whilst achievement and progress remain our core business, we recognise that students can only be successful if relationships with staff and each other are positive.

But don't just take our word for it:

“Pupils are adamant that there is little, if any, bullying. They say that academy staff will not tolerate discriminatory language or actions and that they were all very clear that if such an incident did happen, it would be dealt with very rapidly. Pupils noted that, “it's OK to be different here.” (Ofsted Nov 2015)



A Learning **Culture**

“The academy places great emphasis on ensuring that pupils' well-being is at the core of what they do on a daily basis.” (Ofsted Nov 2015)

